

Dactylis glomerata

COMMON NAME

cocksfoot

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Dactylis glomerata L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

DACGLO

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. A plant of coastal, lowland, montane and subalpine habitats (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Plant grows in scrub and forest margin, shrubland, tussockland, herfields, fernland, sand dune hollows and riverbeds (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Hairless, erect, greyish to bluish green, strongly tufted perennial grass to 1 m tall. **Roots** fibrous. **Leaf** folded when emerging, 100–450 × 2–14 mm, rough towards boat-shaped tip, harsh when old, dull beneath with prominent sharp keel. **Ligule** 2–12 mm long, membranous, often torn. **Sheath** strongly flattened, sharply keeled. **Seedhead** a large panicle, with one-sided clusters of flattened spikelets. **Seeds** with bristly ends.

SIMILAR TAXA

Distinctive large pannicle, with one-sided clusters when mature. May be confused with *Poa annua* when young but sheath base is flattened in *D. glomerata* and not in *Poa annua*.

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Reproduces by tillars and seed. Seed is dispersed by wind, water, humans and vertebrates (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

YEAR NATURALISED

1867

ORIGIN

Eurasia, Nth Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural



Coromandel, October. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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TOLERANCES

The plant is slightly tolerant to drought, shade and poor drainage and is frost tolerant (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). The plant is able to resprout after physical damage and fire (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

ETYMOLOGY

dactylis: From the Greek dactyolos 'a finger', referring to the shape of the panicle

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Timmins SM, Mackenzie IW. 1995. Weeds in New Zealand Protected Natural Areas database. *Department of Conservation Technical Series 8*. Department of Conservation, Wellington, NZ. 282 p.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dactylis-glomerata/>