

Ehrharta erecta

COMMON NAME

veldt grass

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Ehrharta erecta Lam.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

EHRERE

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. A plant of coastal and lowland habitats (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Plant grows in sites of low fertility (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). A plant of sand dunes, cliffs and bluff communities (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender, tufted perennial grass to 60 cm tall. **Leaves** pale green, soft, broad, shortly hairy, often dying back in summer drought. **Sheaths** short. **Seedhead** an open, erect, 10–40 cm long, ragged panicle of narrow spikes.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar to *E. longiflora*, but the upper lemma of *E. erecta* is hairless, wrinkled and has no awn.

FLOWERING

January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Vegetative reproduction occurs and seed is produced in large quantities all year round (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Seed dispersal is by wind, water and bird.

YEAR NATURALISED

1944

ORIGIN

Sth Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural



Wanganui. Nov 2008. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Inflorescence. Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 19/11/2006, Licence: CC BY.

TOLERANCES

The plant is drought and shade tolerant and very tolerant to shade (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Requires low soil fertility (Atkinson 1997).

ETYMOLOGY

erecta: Erect

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Atkinson IAE. 1997. Problem weeds on New Zealand islands. *Science for Conservation 45*. Department of Conservation, Wellington, NZ. 58 p.

Ogle, C.C. 1988. Veld grass *Ehrharta erecta* has come to stay. *Wellington Botanical Society Bulletin 44*: 8–15.

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/ehrharta-erecta/>