

Ehrharta villosa

COMMON NAME

pyp grass

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Ehrharta villosa (L.f.) Schult. et Schult.f.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

EHRVIL

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Short tussockland, herbfield, bare land, wetland, mainly on coastline, sand dunes.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Strongly rhizomatous perennial grass to 1.5 m tall. **Stems** cane-like, erect.

Leaves short, rolled. **Seedhead** a slender panicle, 10–20 cm long. **Seeds**

purplish.

SIMILAR TAXA

It is the only strongly rhizomatous *Ehrharta* species in New Zealand.

FLOWERING

October, November, December, January

FRUITING

Spring–summer

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial.

YEAR NATURALISED

1990

ORIGIN

Sth Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

ETYMOLOGY

villosa: From Latin (villus) meaning shaggy or hairy.

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).



Pyp grass covering foreground dune, Koitiata (Turakina Beach), Oct 1990. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Inflorescence. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ehrharta-villosa/>