

Sagittaria montevidensis subsp. montevidensis

COMMON NAME

Arrowhead

FAMILY

Alismataceae

AUTHORITY

Sagittaria montevidensis subsp. *montevidensis* Cham. & Schlecht

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A marginal aquatic plant, up to 2m tall with broad light green arrow-shaped leaves and white flowers that have purple blotches on the inside.

DISTRIBUTION

Locally naturalised, mostly Auckland and Waikato Regions.

HABITAT

Still and slow flowing water bodies and wetlands.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tall emergent perennial or annual herb. Stems are erect from 7 cm to 2m tall. Emergent leaves have a distinctive arrow-shape with basal lobes up to 15 cm long. The rest of the leaf is up to 25 cm long and 20 cm wide. Flowers are 3-petaled, white with a purple basal spot, about 2.5 cm in diameter, arranged in whorls, with male flowers in upper whorls and female flowers in lower. Fruiting heads globose, 1.5-3 cm across, each with up to 2000 seeds. Seeds are brown, wedge shaped, 2-3 mm long, 1.3 mm wide, winged with a characteristic oblique beak.

SIMILAR TAXA

Other *Sagittaria* species. *Sagittaria montevidensis* has arrow-shaped leaves but petioles are D-shaped in cross-section and it does not produce creeping rhizomes or tubers. The two other *Sagittaria* species present in New Zealand (*S. subulata* and *S. platyphylla*) do not have arrow-shaped emergent leaves.

FLOWERING

Summer

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

Autumn

LIFE CYCLE

Annual or Perennial. Seeds profusely (up to 100 seeds per flower). Buds off basal rhizome can resprout. Matures quickly. produced seed within 6 months. Seeds via water flow and possibly water fowl. Pond escape in floods, deliberate plantings, contaminated diggers, livestock.

YEAR NATURALISED

1996



Sagittaria montevidensis. Photographer: Auckland Regional Council, Licence: Public domain.

ORIGIN

Native to tropics and subtropics of America.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental pond and aquarium plant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Notify regional council if found

TOLERANCES

Seed is frost hardy.

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-fact-sheets/freshwater-pest-species>.

DiTomaso JM, EA Healy (2003). Aquatic and riparian weeds of the west. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 3421, 462pp.

Kasselmann C (2003). Aquarium plants. Krieger Publishing company, Florida, 518pp.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/sagittaria-montevicensis-subsp-montevicensis/>