

# Sagittaria sagittifolia

## FAMILY

Alismataceae

## AUTHORITY

*Sagittaria sagittifolia* L.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A tall marginal aquatic plant, with arrow-shaped leaves and submerged strap like leaves.

## DISTRIBUTION

Only field site from Coromandel Peninsula, Waikato, cultivated elsewhere.

## HABITAT

Still and slow flowing water bodies.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tall summer-green perennial dying back to underground parts over winter. Emergent leaves have a distinctive glossy arrow-shape 3 -16 cm x 0.3-7 cm with long basal lobes 2-30 cm long. Petioles are triangular in cross-section. Plants can also produce ovoid floating leaves and strap-like submerged leaves. Rhizomatous with round tubers, up to 3 cm across, produced on these. No flowers seen on New Zealand material.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Other *Sagittaria* species. *Sagittaria montevidensis* also 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

No flowering plants seen in New Zealand

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## LIFE CYCLE

Apparently by deliberate planting and subsequent spread by water movement. Possibly cultivated as a vegetable by some ethnic groups.

## YEAR NATURALISED

2002

## ORIGIN

Native to Asia and Europe.

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental pond plant and food plant (edible tubers)

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Notify regional council if found



## 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](#).

## 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>.

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

## MORE INFORMATION

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