

Spartina ×townsendii

COMMON NAME

spartina

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Spartina ×townsendii H.Grives et J.Groves

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Aquatic: Emergent. Saline.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stiff perennial grass 10–50 cm tall, with fleshy rhizomes forming dense clumps or swards. **Leaf-blade** 5–35 cm × 4–10 mm, flat or inrolled, hairless and narrowed to fine hard tip. **Culm** erect, 3–8 mm diameter near base including closely ensheathing leaves. **Inflorescence** 8–30 cm, erect, seed always aborted.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be separated from *S. alterniflora* by the smaller culm (3–8 mm) and from *S. anglica* by its generally smaller size, (10–50 cm) and aborted pollen and seed (*S. anglica* is 50–100 cm tall and has viable seed).

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Does not set seed, reproduces entirely by rhizomes. *S. ×townsendii* is sterile and does not set seed. Dispersed by livestock, propellers, nets etc dislodge rhizome fragments, tidal and current movement, intentional planting. Can survive long-tem at sea, moves long distances.

YEAR NATURALISED

1924

ORIGIN

England

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Perennial

TOLERANCES

Can tolerate extreme saline conditions.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/spartina-townsendii/>

