

Carex pendula

Family Cyperaceae



Identification

- The tallest-growing and broadest-leaved sedge in New Zealand.
- Stems are up to 2.5 m tall, three-sided and smooth.
- The leaves are 15 to 20 mm wide.
- The distinctive, drooping flower-spikes are up to 15 cm long and are seen from spring through to midsummer.
- At first glance it looks similar to some native *Carex* species.



Carex pendula Photo: Kerry Ford (Landcare Research)

Where is it found?

Carex pendula is typically found on stream banks, but can thrive in conditions ranging from wetlands through to open forest areas. It is relatively rare in the wild, but is now spreading vigorously along the sides of the Heathcote River in Christchurch.

Why is it a problem?

Because of its large size and prolific seeding it can displace native species in a range of habitats. It is a threat to natural areas and restoration projects, especially near waterways and wetlands.



Carex pendula flower spike Photo: Jon Sullivan

Have you seen it?

If you think you have found *Carex pendula* please contact the Potential Pest Line on (03) 363 9380 or email weeds@ecan.govt.nz. If it has seed heads present, these should be removed and carefully disposed of to prevent further spread.

We are trying to discover how widespread this species is in the wild, so we can decide on the appropriate control action.



Carex pendula seedlings Photo: Jon Sullivan