

Spartina

Spartina anglica, *S. alterniflora*

Detect this pest plant before it becomes a problem

Why it's a problem:

- It restricts water movement and causes sediment build-up in waterways, increasing the risk of flooding.
- It displaces native plants in waterways by outcompeting them for light, nutrients and space.
- It is spread in many ways, including through water, wind, machinery, animals and people.
- Broken fragments re-sprout easily.
- It tolerates all weathers and temperatures, fire, grazing and other damage.
- It may affect recreational fisheries and kai moana gathering sites for Māori.



Appearance:

- An aquatic plant inhabiting waterway margins, growing up to 1m tall in brackish water.
- Its leaves vary in colour from yellow to green to brown and are erect, cord-like grasses of varying sizes.
- It has an extensive rhizome root system with underwater/ground creeping stems.



Location:

It is usually found in inter-tidal zones of estuaries and salt marshes, but may be found in wetland and on stream edges.

Get more information:

- [Weedbusters](#) provides descriptions and images to help with pest identification.
- [Agpest](#) is an identification tool for pests, biology, impact and management for farmers and agricultural professionals.
- [iNaturalist](#) is a sharing tool that contributes to biodiversity science for avid nature observers.
- Manaaki Whenua – [Landcare Research](#) provides information on weeds and biocontrol
- [Ministry for Primary Industries](#) (MPI) for information on protecting New Zealand from biological risk.
- Practice [biosecurity hygiene](#) to stop the spreading of pests.