

# Pest Plants

## of the Wellington Region

# Manchurian wild rice

## *Zizania latifolia*

### How do I identify Manchurian wild rice?

Tall, margin growing aquatic plant that can grow up to **4 metres** tall in salt or fresh water

**Leaves:** Light green, erect; with a **ridge in the middle**; sharp edges and tapering to a sharp point that bends but does not twist

**Flowers:** Brown or purple and **spear shaped**

**Fruits:** Seed

**Roots:** Thick, creeping underground stems

**Where found:** Streams, pasture, drains, pond, wetland and lake margins

### What's the problem?

- Manchurian wild rice restricts water movement and causes sediment build-up in waterways, increasing the risk of flooding
- It displaces native plants in waterways by out-competing them for light, nutrients and space
- It is spread by seeds and root fragments transported mainly by water, machinery, and wildlife

### What do I do?

- If you suspect you have Manchurian wild rice or have seen it somewhere in the Wellington region, please contact us and we'll come and have a look
- If it is Manchurian wild rice, we will control it for free and record the sites location for future work

#### Fact:

Manchurian wild rice is a pest plant in New Zealand but in its native China, it is very rare



Paul Champion (NIWA)