

# Elytrigia pycnantha

## COMMON NAME

sea couch

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

Elytrigia pycnantha (Godr.)

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

ELYPYC

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Coastal on foreshore waste land, consolidated sand near dunes, mudflats and roadsides.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Bluish grey, tufted, rigid perennial grass to about 125 cm tall. Can form large patches from strongly spreading wiry rhizomes. **Leaves** glaucous, up to 25 cm long, usually rolled, occasionally flat and up to 7 mm wide, greyish to light brown, held on erect culms 25–75 cm tall. **Inflorescence** an erect spike 5–20 cm tall with spikelets very close-set.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Can be separated from *E. repens* (couch) by the tightly inrolled leaves, and leaves that are rough to the touch.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1968

## ORIGIN

Western and Southern Europe

## Reason For Introduction

Agricultural

## Reproduction

Vegetative spread from long running rhizomes. Seed is also produced.

## Tolerances

Tolerates salt and very poor soils.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/elytrigia-pycnantha/>



Newdicks Beach, Maketu. Apr 2008.  
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