

Equisetum hyemale

COMMON NAME

Rough horsetail

FAMILY

Equisetaceae

AUTHORITY

Equisetum hyemale L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Ferns

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A plant with erect stems arising from rapidly spreading underground rhizomes. Stems unbranched or very sparsely branched, and the central 2/3 diameter of stem hollow. Stem ridges with 2 rows of tubercles, sheath with black bands at top and bottom. When fertile, apiculate (on flexible stalks) cones produced on the green stems.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to Equisetum arvense but unbranched or very sparsely branched, and, when fertile, with cones produced on the green stems, not on separate brown stems. Also distinguished by the central hollow 2/3 diameter of stem, stem ridges with 2 rows of tubercles, sheath with black bands at top and bottom, and cone apiculate. (Webb et al 1995).

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

LIFE CYCLE

Rhizomes to 1m underground. Toxic to stock. Aggressive and almost impossible to eradicate. being sold and given away as a medicinal herb. Slender asparagus-like spear with black rings. (Melanie Newfield, 1996). Major potential weed.

YEAR NATURALISED

1993

ORIGIN

Europe, Asia, N. America

ETYMOLOGY

equisetum: From the Latin equus 'horse' and setum 'bristle', the barren growths resembling horses' tails.

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](https://www.mpi.govt.nz/pest-plant/).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/equisetum-hyemale/>

