

Bur reed (*Sparganium erectum*)



Flower heads are spherical

Bur Reed is a rush-like aquatic perennial which grows up to 1.5 m tall in standing or slow flowing, nutrient-rich waters up to 0.5m in depth. This plant is rhizomatous, with leafy, flowering stems. The leaves of the bur reed are alternate and linear. The flower stalk has four to six branches distinguishing it from the native maru (*Sparganium subglobosum*) which is either unbranched or has up to 3 branches. Flower heads are spherical and produce hard, nut-like fruit and prickly round seed-heads.

Not known to be present in New Zealand. Any possible sightings should be reported to your Regional Council immediately.