

## Eelgrass (*Vallisneria gigantea*)



Submerged  
Aquatic Plant



*Long, ribbon-like light green leaves*

Eelgrass is a perennial freshwater aquatic plant which can grow to a height of 5.5m and can colonise lake-bed sediments in water up to 9 m deep, also growing in flowing waters. Bottom rooting and with stout rhizomes, it forms dense beds of vegetation and produces long, ribbon-like light green leaves from nodes at regular intervals along the rhizomes. Viable seed is not produced in New Zealand because only male plants are present here. Spread is by intentional planting into new water bodies.

**Eelgrass is difficult to control and is only found in a few places in New Zealand, but has the potential to spread. If you think you have found a new occurrence, contact your Regional Council immediately.**