

## Manchurian wild rice (*Zizania latifolia*)



2 - 3 cm wide leaves up to 2.5 m long



Flower head is 40 - 60 cm long

Manchurian wild rice is a tall, rhizomatous, perennial grass that grows up to 3 m tall. It is found at the edges of water bodies and can tolerate moderately saline water.

The grass is tall and upright with 2 - 3 cm wide leaves up to 2.5 m long, with a stout midrib. The flower head is 40 - 60 cm long, and is purplish or red-brown in colour, appearing in November and December. Occasionally large quantities of seeds are produced. Established plants spread by their long stout rhizomes forming dense impenetrable swards. Spread is by seed or rhizome fragments spread by water movement or drainage machinery.

Where only a few plants are established they can be carefully dug out and disposed of or they can be treated with herbicide. Larger areas can be sprayed with herbicide between September and April, but follow up treatments are usually necessary.

**Manchurian wild rice only occurs in a few places in New Zealand. Any suspected new sightings should be reported immediately to your Regional Council.**