

Pyp grass (*Ehrharta villosa*)



It spreads into dry, sandy, native ecosystems



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Pyp grass is a tufted perennial rhizomatous grass, growing up to 1.5 m tall. It spreads into dry, sandy, native ecosystems and can adversely affect the biodiversity of sand dunes and other sandy places.

The grass grows from shallow, fibrous rhizomes and sends up purplish bamboo-like stems with only a few leaves. The flowering stems are erect, carrying heads that are pale greyish brown in colour, initially compact and narrow and becoming more open. Rhizomes allow rapid local spread.

Any plants should be carefully dug out, taking care to remove all the rhizomes which are extensive but shallow-rooted. Large infestations can be treated with herbicide in spring or summer.

Pyp grass is only found in a few places in New Zealand. Any suspected new infestations should be reported immediately to your Regional Council.