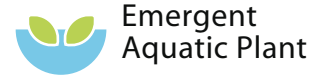


Southern cattail* (*Typha domingensis*)



Brown erect sausage-shaped flower spikes

* Also known as Narrow-leaf cumbungi

Southern cattail is a perennial freshwater aquatic herb growing to between 1.5-2 m in height, very similar in appearance to the native raupo (*Typha orientalis*). It grows on the margins of water bodies in shallow water on a range of different substrates.

Stems grow upright from thick, creeping rhizomes to form a dense tall reed bed. Southern cattail has wide, flat, sheathing leaves of a yellowish or pale greyish-green colour. It flowers in early summer, producing brown, erect, sausage-shaped flower spikes. These are very similar to raupo flowers but are generally narrower and longer than these. Plants are dispersed by wind or water borne seed.

Southern cattail is not known to be established in New Zealand, although it may occur in cultivation. Any sightings should be reported at once to your Regional Council.