



# 9. Spartina

*Spartina anglica*, *S. alterniflora*

## What is spartina?

Spartina is a clumping grass that grows about a metre high. It is also called common cord grass or salt-water cord grass. Spartina is an invasive weed which takes over coastal areas and competes with native plants.

## Why is spartina a problem for NZ?

It invades mangroves, mudflats and estuaries taking over the inter-tidal zone. It forms big clumps that hold mud (sediment). This raises the level of the land and can change coastal ecosystems. Bird and fish habitat is damaged by Spartina.

Spartina is very hard to get rid of and even survives fire.

## How do I know it's spartina?

Spartina has stems that grow together and stand upright. It looks like a very large grass.

It has long, flat, narrow leaves about 10-45cm long that are ribbed on top.

The flowers are produced in groups in spiky tops of the plant. The seed heads are not often seen in NZ.

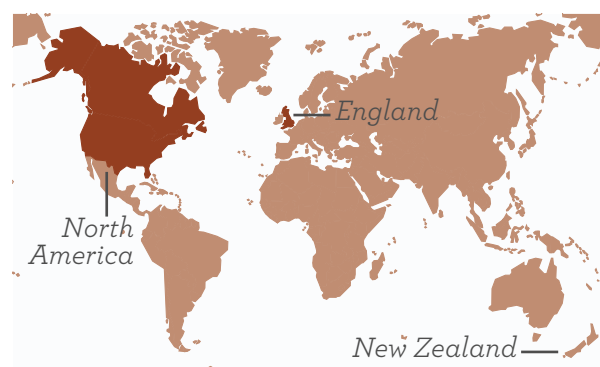


## How does it spread?

Spartina's stems can creep underground and spread easily, over wide areas.

It can also spread through flooding and livestock.

Spartina comes from North America and England.



**IF YOU SEE SPARTINA,  
CONTACT YOUR LOCAL  
DOC OFFICE FOR ADVICE**

For more detailed information about spartina and how to control its spread see: [weedbusters.org.nz](http://weedbusters.org.nz)

