

Notify Council

If you have seen or suspect the presence of Spartina you must report the sighting to Environment Southland immediately.

Additionally you may contact the Department of Conservation directly.

What is council doing about this?

If you suspect the presence of Spartina please contact the Department of Conservation immediately. Specialised control methods are required to manage this pest and will be carried out free of charge by a Department of Conservation Ranger or an approved contractor.

What does it look like?

Spartina is an estuarine grass that grows in clumps up 1.5 metres tall. *S. alterniflora* is the most common spartina species in Southland, and is the more robust of the two, with shoots up to 30mm in diameter. *Spartina anglica* is smaller, with shoots up to 8mm in diameter.

Spartina grows in soft sediment at wave-protected sites on the edges of estuaries and harbours. It grows in the inter-tidal zone, often with mangroves.

Why is it a problem?

Spartina is an aggressive and persistent invader of inter-tidal mudflats. It can take over inter-tidal areas, leading to a loss of habitat for shorebirds, recreational fisheries and seafood. The dense growth of spartina traps sediment, which can eventually raise the ground level to a point where the area is no longer inter-tidal. Extensive infestations can cause surface flooding on adjacent land.

Spartina alterniflora is not known to set seed in New Zealand and *Spartina anglica* produces only small amounts. Both species reproduce vegetatively, from spreading rhizomes (roots).



Control methods

Spartina is controlled by the Department of Conservation - contact your local office for more information.

Related links

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network http://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.aspx?ID=2809

NZ Flora <http://www.nzflora.info/factsheet/Taxon/Spartina-alterniflora.html>

Weedbusters <https://www.weedbusters.org.nz/what-are-weeds/weed-list/spartina/>

Spartina

Spartina alterniflora



Summary of rules

If you detect or suspect the presence of *Spartina* within Southland you must immediately report its presence and location to Environment Southland.

For full rules please see the [Southland Regional Pest Management Plan](#) (Rule 4).

You can not possess, keep, hold, enclose or otherwise harbour *Spartina* within the Southland Region.

For full rules please see the [Southland Regional Pest Management Plan](#) (Rule 5).

Management programme

Eradication

Request info

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityRFS/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=198>

Report this Pest/Weed

<https://eservices.es.govt.nz/online-services/new/BiosecurityIncident/step/1?Subject=PlantPests&Species=198>