



Report this pest



Rough horsetail

Why is it a pest?

Rough horsetail is considered a pest plant because it spreads aggressively through its deep, extensive rhizome system and spores, making it very hard to control or eradicate.

It thrives in a wide range of soil types and conditions, often outcompeting crops and desirable vegetation. It can threaten biodiversity of wetlands and waterway edges.

Additionally, its resilience to many herbicides and its ability to regrow from even small root fragments make it persistent and costly to control.



What does it look like?

- **Size:** Can grow up to 1.2 metres high.
- **Leaves:** There are no leaves, but reed stems, which can create large stands. The stems are hollow and have coloured ribbed bands.
- **Flowers:** It does not produce flowers. Instead, spores are concentrated at the tip of the stem on an asparagus-like head.
- **Root system:** Rhizomes can grow to 1 metre deep.
- **Habitat:** Includes forest margins, riparian margins (land that runs alongside a waterway, such as a river, stream, lake or wetland) and ponds.

Common name:

Rough horsetail

Scientific name:

Equisetum hyemale

Management programme:

Unwanted organism

An unwanted organism is not managed under the ORC Regional Pest Management Plan but may be controlled as part of our Biosecurity Strategy.



**Report
this pest!**

If you have seen or suspect the presence of this pest, you **must report** the sighting to us at orc.govt.nz/reportpests

When can I spot it best?

Rough horsetail grows throughout the year, and each new stem can grow to full height in a few weeks.

What are the rules?

Rough horsetail is declared an unwanted organism in the National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA). Any species declared a pest under the NPPA cannot be sold or be in a place where plants are being sold.

Pest plants cannot be propagated, bred, multiplied, communicated, released, caused to be released, or otherwise spread.

What should I do?

Do not attempt to undertake control of rough horsetail yourself. Report any sightings to Otago Regional Council.



Report this pest



Help us find rough horsetail

You must notify Otago Regional Council if you suspect the presence of this pest.

If you think you've seen it:



Note the location



Take a photo
(if possible)



Report this pest
at orc.govt.nz/reportpests

For more information, visit orc.govt.nz/roughhorsetail

