

PUREI

Carex secta

405

The Māori name for *Carex secta* is purei. It is a well known species and it is a great plant for revegetating or enhancing wetland areas. Purei very wide spread and has been found in both coastal wetlands as well as some mountain wetlands. It is easily identified as it looks like a big brown lump of grass.



IMG 413

Growth form

Carex is a large variety of sedge that grows up to 1.5m. Mature species gain a trunk like base made of matted roots and old leaves. Leaves are weeping, brown to light brown and are only 1.5 - 7mm wide.

Flowers

Flowers are insignificant pale brown spikes that cluster at the ends of the stem. Seeds can be collected during Autumn or propagated by division.

Wetland benefits

Carex can grow in either upland soils or in wetlands. They provide habitat for insects and nesting birds as well as provide shade for the water



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