

# New Zealand Flax

*Phormium tenax*



**Do not  
plant this  
in your yard!**



This New Zealand native was introduced to Hawai'i in the late 1800's as an ornamental. This plant is present in landscaped areas.

A single flower stalk can produce up to 10,000 seeds which are winged and dispersed by the wind.

# New Zealand Flax

*Phormium tenax*



**High Risk**

## Description:

An evergreen, perennial monocot that can grow up to 13' tall and 7' wide. Plant can be fertilized by its own pollen. This plant produces clones, which sprout up and spread out.

## Flower:

Red or yellow tubular flowers that arise in bunches extending up to 12'.

## Leaves:

Smooth, leathery, sword-shaped leaves that grow clumped in a fan shape. Leaf color can range from bright green to bronze and purple.

## Fruit:

The fruit is a 3-angled capsule up to 4" long, containing many small wind-dispersed seeds.

## Impacts and Harm:

- Seeds are wind dispersed
- Forms dense thickets
- Crowds out native vegetation and blocks the sunlight.
- Plants can root on the ground, in hapu'u trunks, open pig disturbed grassland, and steep ridges.
- Very tough to remove from the landscape once established.

## Plant this native instead:



'Uki'uki (*Dianella sandwicensis*)

Photo: Forest and Kim Starr