

Broad-leaf rush

(*Juncus planifolius*)

Habitat: Wetlands

Family name: Juncaceae

Common names: broadleaf rush; broad-leaf rush; flat-leaved rush; grass-leaved rush

Broad-leaf rush is a perennial rush plant, which grows exclusively in wetland habitats.

It is native to the southern hemisphere but was introduced to Ireland in 1971. It is now included on the amber list as a priority invasive.



Description:

Tufted or with short vertical rhizome, annual or perennial.

Stems: 20-900 x 0.5-1.5 mm.

Leaves: Basal, blade flat, 1.5–11 mm wide; sheath pale brown, mostly pink-coloured, umbel-like and irregularly branched.

Tepals: red-brown, mid-rib region often paler or all straw-brown.



Flowers: long, clustered at apex of branches, 5–30 per cluster and 3–70) clusters per inflorescence.

Pollen: grain is monocolpate, circular shape with psilate surface



Reproduction:

Flowers of Broad-leaf rush are hermaphroditic and protogynous.

Most Broad-leaf rush species, use synchronized pulsed flowering, as population-wide flowering events.

The flowers in Broad-leaf rush are wind pollinated or more rarely insect pollinated.

The number of seeds produced by the plant is high, as is common in this genus. Broad-leaf rush regenerates naturally from seeds.



The seed can persist in the soil for at least two years. Seeds of Broad-leaf rush sink in water and are quickly buried within sediments.