

Wireweed

Sargassum muticum

Invasive: High impact

Species profile

- Habitat:** Marine.
- Distribution in Ireland:** Widespread throughout coastal areas.
- Status:** Established.
- Family name:** Sargassaceae.
- Reproduction:** It can reproduce sexually and can spread zygotes that develop on the surface of the receptacles.

Identifying features

- Colour:** Brown seaweed, ranging from dark to light brown.
- Size:** Generally ranging from 1-3m in length, but can grow to grow to 16m.
- Growth rate:** Can grow up to 10cm a day.
- Mat forming:** Can form large mats on the surface of water.



Close up section of wireweed, showing its colour and structure
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Wireweed
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Threats

As wireweed can form mats it reduces the levels of light penetration. This can adversely impact underwater plant communities.

It can out-compete native plant species such as sugarkelp and thongweed.

Surface growth can impede the movement of both swimmers and boats.

Similar species

- *Halidrys siliquosa*
- *Cystoseira species*



Wireweed out of water
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Wireweed growing and forming a small mat

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An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



View Ireland's distribution of this species on <http://maps.biodiversityireland.ie>

National Biodiversity Data Centre fact sheet.
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