

Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata*

When to look:

September to May,
flowering occurs from
September to April

Tussock-like, rosette plant

Flowers form a tight, cylindrical cluster that is 1-7 cm in length

Grows up to 30 cm high (tussock) with the flower stalk up to 1 m in height

Small and initially cream flowers that turn brown rapidly

Similar species:

Variable Plantain (*Plantago varia*): its leaves usually have a toothed, or jagged, edge (not smooth like the Ribwort Plantain) and there is a dense tuft of reddish-brown hairs at the base of each leaf. Also, its flower stem can be shorter, only growing to a height of about 36 cm.

Long, sword-shaped leaves that form a clump and usually stand upright

Image courtesy of Rich Weatherill