

# Agrostis petriei

## SYNONYMS

*Agrostis petriei* Hack. var. *petriei*; *Agrostis petriei* var. *mutica* Hack.

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Agrostis petriei* Hack.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

AGRPET

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island from Canterbury to Central Otago.

## HABITAT

Montane to subalpine on dry stony ground, cliff faces and rock outcrops. Also on river flats and within tussock grassland.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Loosely erect, tussock forming, bluish-green to greyish green clump-forming grass 150–550 mm tall, with slender, involute, finely scabrid leaves.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to the grasses of New Zealand](#)

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Agrostis petriei* is readily recognised by its rigid, strictly involute, wiry blue-green to grey-green leaf-blades, which are very obviously, densely scabrid-papillose. Unlike the other indigenous *Agrostis taxa*, *A. petriei* favours very dry sites within lowland to subalpine areas. It is usually found on rock outcrops or along river flats within ablation zones or within open stony pavements on river flats.

## FLOWERING

October–January



## FRUITING

December–March

## LIFE CYCLE

Florets are dispersed by wind and water (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and rooted pieces but dislikes humidity and will not flower unless subjected to cold treatment.

## ETYMOLOGY

**agrostis**: Greek name for a kind of grass

**petriei**: Named after Donald Petrie (1846 -1925), Scottish born Otago botanist

## ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Edgar E, Connor HE. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Christchurch, Manaaki Whenua Press. 650 p.

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/agrostis-petriei/>