

Hierochloe novae-zelandiae

COMMON NAME

alpine holy grass

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Hierochloe novae-zelandiae Gand.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

HIENOV

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, Mt Egmont only. South Island from Nelson south. Stewart Island/Rakiura.

HABITAT

An alpine species of stream sides, tarn margins, cushion bogs, flushes and seepages in tussock grassland and fell field.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

LIFE CYCLE

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

ETYMOLOGY

hierochloe: From the Greek hieros 'sacred' and chloa 'grass' meaning holy grass. European species of this grass were once strewn on church floors.

novae-zelandiae: Of New Zealand



WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson AT, Smith HA. 1986. *Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning*. Landsman Bookshop Ltd, Buckenhill, UK.

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/hierochloe-novae-zelandiae/>