

# Lachnagrostis glabra

## COMMON NAME

saltmarsh wind grass

## SYNONYMS

Deyeuxia glabra Petrie

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

Lachnagrostis glabra (Petrie) Edgar

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

LACGLA

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 56

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Data Deficient

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Data Deficient

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION


Endemic. Confined to the South Island from Christchurch south to the Foveaux Strait and Stewart Island.

## HABITAT

Estuaries, tidal creeks and around brackish ponds. Sometimes on damp sand within sand dune systems.



## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Laxly sprawling, stoloniferous perennials, 180–350 mm tall, with sparse, narrow, soft, bright green leaves. Branching extravaginal. **Leaf-sheath** membranous, distinctly ribbed, glabrous. **Ligule** 3–5 mm, oblong, erose, undersides finely scabrid. **Leaf-blade** 40–150 × 1.5–2.5 mm, flat, membranous, undersides smooth, upper surface finely scabrid on ribs; margins finely scabrid, apex fine, subacute. **Culm** 70–250 mm, usually included within uppermost leaf-sheath, internodes finely scabrid below panicle. **Panicle** 50–200 × 10–60 mm, contracted, later spreading; branches filiform, finely scabrid, bearing few spikelets towards apex on long delicate pedicels. **Spikelets** 3.0–3.8 mm, light green. **Glumes** subequal, ovate-elliptic, rarely with scattered prickle-teeth near scabrid mid-nerve; margins hyaline, scabrid near acute tip. **Lemma** 1.8–2.5 mm, more or less  length of glumes, faintly 3–5-nerved, glabrous, apex more or less truncate and erose, lateral nerves hardly excurrent; awn 0–1.2 mm, straight, emanating from just below lemma apex. **Palea** equal to lemma, nerves very close set, apex hardly bifid. **Callus** hairs few, 0.1 mm or absent. **Rachilla** prolongation 0.3–0.5 mm, tipped by a few hairs to 0.8 mm. **Lodicules** linear, acute. **Anthers** 0.5–0.9 mm. **Seeds** not described.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to the grasses of New Zealand

## SIMILAR TAXA

Distinguished from the other New Zealand species of the genus by the straight or absent awn; extravaginal branching; by the panicle contracted at first, later more open, with the ultimate branches often bearing 2–3 spikelets toward the apex; by the lemma 1.2–2.5 mm long; callus hairs sparse up to 0.1 mm long or absent; and by the palea about the same length as the lemma.

## FLOWERING

November–January

## FRUITING

December–March

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and rooted pieces. Does best in full sun planted within a damp soil, or partially submerged in water.

## THREATS

Not Threatened but often uncommon, especially in the northern part of its range.

## ETYMOLOGY

**lachnagrostis**: From “lachne” (wool) referring to the distinctive callus hairs of this genus and “agrostis” by which Trinius (1820) actually meant “a grass” (not an Agrostis). So the generic name means “a hairy (woolly) grass” not “a hairy (woolly) Agrostis” as is often incorrectly stated (see Gardner 2014).

**glabra**: Hairless

## 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.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lachnagrostis-glabra/>