

Lachnagrostis leptostachys

COMMON NAME

wind grass

SYNONYMS

Agrostis leptostachys Hook.f., *Deyeuxia forsteri* var *micrATHERA* Hack.
comb. illeg., var. epithet legit.

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Lachnagrostis leptostachys (Hook.f.) Zotov

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

LACLEP

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 84

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Confined to the Auckland, Campbell and Antipodes Islands.

HABITAT

Mainly coastal on rock strewn ground and in peaty turf. Sometimes found at higher elevations within *Chionochloa antarctica* (Hook.f.) Zotov dominated grassland.



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Pale green, erect tufted, perennial grass, 150–650 mm tall, with numerous, narrow, involute grey-green to dark green leaves overtopping the lax, delicately branched panicles. Branching intravaginal. **Leaf-sheath** membranous with few, distinct ribs, smooth or scabrid above, pale green to very light brown. **Ligule** 2.0–4.5 mm, oblong, very slightly tapered above, truncate, denticulate, undersides ± scabrid, especially near base. **Leaf-blade** 35–160 × 1–2 mm, mostly involute, 0.5–1.0 mm diameter, undersides sparsely to closely scabrid, upper sides ribbed and closely ciliate-scabrid on ribs; margins finely scabrid, apex acute. **Culm** 30–180 mm, usually hidden within leaf-sheaths, internodes finely scabrid. **Panicle** 30–160 × 20–120 mm, purple-red, laxly rachis finely scabrid, branches capillary, finely scabrid, tipped by few spikelets. **Spikelets** 4.5–6.5 mm, light green to red-green. **Glumes** ± equal, lanceolate, acute to acuminate, green, red-green, purple, submembranous, sparsely scabrid above, midnerve with sparse prickly-teeth, except near base, margins hyaline, sparsely scabrid near apex. **Lemma** 2.5–3.0 mm, c. ½ length of glumes, 5-nerved, softly hairy throughout except at apex, elliptic, truncate, lateral nerves shortly excurrent; awn 4–6 mm, straight, or ± curved, ± mid-dorsal, or from upper ⅓ of lemma. **Palea** c. ½ length of lemma, elliptic, nerves not evident, margins with 1–2 minute hairs, apex shallowly notched. **Callus** hairs ± dense below lemma margins, fine, to c. 1 mm, ¼–⅓ length of lemma. **Rachilla** prolongation to 0.5 mm with fine hair tufts to 1 mm long, or glabrous. **Lodicules** c.1 mm, narrow-lanceolate, acute. **Anthers** 0.6–1.2 mm. **Seed** 1.5 × 0.5 mm.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

SIMILAR TAXA

The straight or curved awns distinguish it from the geniculate awned *L. pilosa* subsp. *nubifera* the only other *Lachnagrostis* on the Antipodes and Auckland Islands. *Lachnagrostis leptostachys* is the only species of the genus present on Campbell Island. From all the other species with straight to curved awns *L. leptostachys* can be distinguished by its intravaginal rather than extravaginal branching.

FLOWERING

November - January

FRUITING

December - March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and rooted pieces but dislikes humidity, and warm climates. Plants grown in Auckland did not flower.

THREATS

No apparent threats. Listed because it is a narrow range endemic confined to the Antipodes, Campbell and Auckland Island groups.

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).

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

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-leptostachys/>