

# Lachnagrostis pilosa subsp. nubifera

## COMMON NAME

wind grass

## SYNONYMS

None

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

Lachnagrostis pilosa subsp. nubifera Edgar

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, IE, RR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. Confined to Auckland and Antipodes Islands

## HABITAT

Coastal, on margins of forest, in open scrub, or in damp ground at margins of tussock grassland. Sometimes amongst sedges or along cliff faces and associated talus slopes.



## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Usually a robust, wide-leaved, perennial forming tufts 50–900 mm tall, rarely more gracile. **Branching** intravaginal. **Leaves** usually harsh, dull green drying dark green. **Leaf-sheath** harsh textured, firm, striate, smooth or finely scabrid above, green to light brown. **Ligule** 1.3–6.0 mm, tapered, rounded, becoming denticulate, undersides finely scabrid. **Leaf-blade** 20–280 × 0.5–10 mm, flat, or rather harsh and involute above in plants from the Antipodes Islands; undersides with numerous fine, finely scabrid ribs, midrib prominent near base, upper surface finely ribbed and finely scabrid on ribs; margins finely scabrid, apex subobtuse. **Culm** 200–660 mm, usually included within the uppermost leaf-sheath, erect, internodes finely scabrid. **Panicle** 20–280 × 10–200 mm, at first stiff and contracted with erect branches, at maturity often more lax and ovate-elliptic; rachis smooth below, scabrid above, primary branches sparsely scabrid, filiform, very long, erect, secondary branchlets much shorter, very numerous, capillary, scaberulous, tipped by several clustered spikelets. **Inflorescences** paniculate, usually rather large, firm, pale green and many flowered. **Spikelets** 3–6 mm, light green (rarely purple-green). **Glumes** ± equal, smooth and membranous, rarely sparsely scabrid in upper half, acute to acuminate; lower elliptic-lanceolate, scabrid on upper  $\frac{1}{2}$  of keel, upper linear-lanceolate, scabrid on upper  $\frac{1}{2}$  of keel. **Lemma** 1.5–2.0 mm long,  $< \frac{1}{2}$  length of glumes, elliptic-oblong, truncate, densely hairy throughout, lateral nerves shortly excurrent; awn 0.5–3.5 mm long, straight from upper  $\frac{1}{3}$  of lemma. **Palea** elliptic-oblong, roughly the same length as lemma, nerves distinct, 0.2 mm apart, apex shallowly bifid. **Callus** hairs copious, very short to 0.5 mm long, one fifth to one quarter length of lemma. **Rachilla** prolongation to 0.5 mm, tipped by hairs to 1 mm long. **Lodicules** c. 0.5 mm long, lanceolate, acute. **Anthers** 0.5–0.8 mm long. **Seed** 1.3–1.8 × 0.4–0.6 mm.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Lachnagrostis pilosa* is distinguished from the other New Zealand species by the generally robust, stout growth habit and wide, grey-green, harsh textured leaves. Of those species with intravaginal branching it is immediately distinguished by wide leaves (2–10 mm wide cf. 0.5–3.0 mm wide), firm, robust panicle, and by the scattered to densely hairy lemma. Two subspecies are recognised: *L. pilosa* subsp. *pilosa* differs from subsp. *nubifera* by the shorter (0.5–3.0 mm in subsp. *nubifera* cf. 3.0–8.5 mm long in subsp. *pilosa*), straight rather than geniculate awns, and by the palea, which is almost equal or equal the length of lemma, rather than  $\frac{1}{2}$ – $\frac{2}{3}$  in length. It differs from *leptostachys* (Hook.f.) Zotov with which it is sympatric on the Antipodes and Auckland Islands by the shorter, more densely hairy lemma, and by the shorter (not geniculate) awns, and palea which is almost equal or equal the length of lemma rather than  $\frac{1}{2}$  the length of the lemma.

## FLOWERING

November–January (not well known)

## FRUITING

December–March (not well known)

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Not known but probably easy from fresh seed and rooted pieces. Probably will dislike humid/warm climates.

## THREATS

Local endemic, common within its limited geographic 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).

## 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. Manaaki Whenua Press, Christchurch, NZ. 650 p.

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lachnagrostis-pilosa-subsp-nubifera/>