

Lachnagrostis striata

COMMON NAME

purple wind grass

SYNONYMS

Agrostis striata Colenso, *Deyeuxia forsteri* var. *humilior* Hack. comb. illeg., var. *epithet legit*.

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Lachnagrostis striata (Colenso) Zotov

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

LACSTR

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 84

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. In the North Island scattered from Auckland south, common on the Volcanic Plateau. South Island, locally common in the east but abundant in Fiordland.

HABITAT

Lowland to montane. Usually found on lake and tarn margins (especially in turfs), on river banks and in damp seepages within tussock grassland.

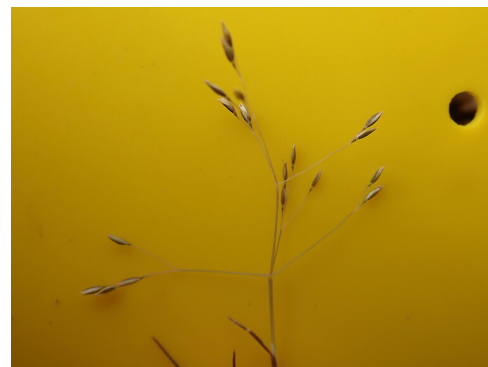
WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).




Mackenzie Basin. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 29/03/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Mackenzie Basin. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Date taken: 29/03/2023, Licence: CC BY-NC.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted, usually fine-leaved, low growing, tufted, bright green to red-green annual to short-lived perennial grass 50–400 mm tall. **Branching** extravaginal. **Leaf-sheath** membranous, sparsely ribbed, smooth, rarely minutely scabrid, green to light brown. **Ligule** 1.0–5.5 mm long, more or less oblong, sometimes slightly tapered, denticulate, undersides sparsely prickle-toothed. **Leaf-blade** 10–100 × 0.6–2.0 mm, usually folded, so appearing narrower, undersides smooth except near apex, upper surface scabrid on prominent ribs, margins scabrid; apex subobtusate. **Culm** 15–300 mm long, erect or ascending, longer culms often projecting beyond uppermost sheaths, internodes minutely, retrorsely scabrid. **Panicle** 20–200 × 15–120 mm, delicate, rather contracted at first, becoming lax; branches filiform, finely scabrid, tipped by 1–few spikelets. **Spikelets** 2.0–3.5 mm, green or purplish, sometimes purple-red. **Glumes** subequal, acute, scabrid on mid-nerve in upper half or almost throughout, hyaline margins with a very few prickle-teeth near apex; lower slightly longer, linear-lanceolate, upper elliptic-lanceolate. **Lemma** 1.2–2.3 mm,  $-\frac{3}{4}$ the length of glumes, usually densely covered by stiff, straight hairs, ovate-oblong, truncate, lateral nerves scarcely excurrent; awn 0.2–3.0 mm, mostly straight, rarely geniculate, very fine, often purple, emanating from upper $\frac{1}{3}$ of lemma. **Palea** two-thirds to about the same length as the lemma, keels 0.1 mm apart, slightly excurrent, apex minutely bifid, sparsely prickle-toothed. **Callus** ringed with short hairs to 0.3 mm, about $\frac{1}{4}$ length of lemma. **Rachilla prolongation** 0.5 mm long, tipped by equally long, or slightly longer hairs. **Lodicules** 0.3 mm, linear, acute. **Anthers** 0.2–0.6 mm long. **Seed** 0.8–1.4 × 0.4–0.6 mm.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

SIMILAR TAXA

One of a group of species with mostly straight or curved awns (though in this species they can be geniculate); extravaginal branching and with initially contracted panicles which later open and whose ultimate branches often bear two or three spikelets towards the apex; and whose lemma is 1.2–2.5 mm long. It is distinguished from *L. uda* Edgar and *L. glabra* (Petrie) Edgar, which also have these features, by the densely hairy lemma and by the anthers which are usually 0.2–0.5 mm long. *Lachnagrostis striata* is a lowland to montane species, often of river, lake, pond or tarn margins, while *L. glabra* is strictly coastal and usually associated with salt marshes and mud flats and *L. uda* is a species of alpine seepages and mires.

FLOWERING

September–April

FRUITING

October–June

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Usually an annual or short-lived grass which readily self-sows and can become invasive.

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).

striata: Striated

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (27 June 2005). 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.
- Gardner RO. 2014. Notes on the wind grass *Lachnagrostis filiformis* (Poaceae). *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 69: 168–170.
- Trinius CB. 1820. *Fundamenta Agrostographiae*. J.G.Huebner, Vienna.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Lachnagrostis striata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lachnagrostis-striata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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