

# Lachnagrostis tenuis

## COMMON NAME

wind grass

## SYNONYMS

*Deyeuxia billardierei* var. *tenuis* Cheeseman, *D. tenuis* (Cheeseman) Zotov

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Lachnagrostis tenuis* (Cheeseman) Edgar

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

LACTEN

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: RR

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Threatened – Nationally Vulnerable | Qualifiers: RR

2009 | Data Deficient

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Apparently a local endemic. Confined to the South Island from Christchurch south along the Otago Coast to Bluff and on Stewart Island. At sites without grazing can be very common, though in the absence of a panicle it is very inconspicuous.

## HABITAT

Coastal scrub and open ground and at sea level in salt marshes and other estuarine habitats. In saltmarshes it appears to prefer vegetated slightly raised sandy ground. Often in association with *Selliera radicans*. The detached panicles accumulate along the strand line of estuaries.



## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stiff, leafy tufts 180–360 mm tall, leaves narrow, more or less inrolled, panicles lax. **Branching** intravaginal. **Leaf-sheath** subcoriaceous, more or less obviously ribbed, glabrous, light brown. **Ligule** 1.0–3.2 mm, truncate, erose, minutely ciliate, undersides scabrid. **Leaf-blade** 20–120 × 0.3–0.9 mm, inrolled, undersides smooth, rarely scabrid near apex, upper surface ribbed and short-scabrid on ribs, margins smooth, apex obtuse. **Culm** 50–200 mm, usually included within uppermost leaf-sheath, internodes densely, finely scabrid below panicle. **Panicle** 30–120 × 20–120 mm, delicate, branches fine, scabrid, erect to spreading, bearing spikelets at tips. **Spikelets** 3–5 mm, light green to light brown. **Glumes** 1–3-nerved, elliptic-lanceolate, more or less acuminate, strongly keeled, keel finely scabrid in upper ½. **Lemma** 3.0–4.2 mm, more or less equivalent in length to glumes, firmly membranous, glabrous, papillose-scabrid, elliptic-lanceolate, lateral nerves sharply excurrent to c. 1 mm; central awn 3.5–6.5 mm, geniculate, emanating from lower one third of lemma. **Palea** 2.5–3.0 mm, c. ⅓ length of lemma, lanceolate, apex bifid, keels scabrid, margins submembranous, scabrid near apex. **Callus** hairs more or less dense, very short, 0.3–0.8 mm, about ¼ length of lemma. **Rachilla** prolongation 1.5–2.5 mm long, with very short hairs throughout except sometimes near tip, rarely completely glabrous. **Lodicules** 0.7–1.0 mm, lanceolate, acute. **Anthers** 0.5–0.9 mm. **Seed** 1.4–1.6 × 0.5–0.7 mm.

## 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 intravaginal branching; glabrous lemma, and inrolled leaf-blades, that are 0.3–0.9 mm diameter, spikelets 3–5 mm long, and lemmas that are papillose-scabrid throughout (hand lens needed). The combination of narrow filiform leaves (rarely flat and to 2mm wide), geniculate awn, and glabrous lemma (though care must be taken as the hairy rachilla can give the adaxial part of the lemma a hairy appearance)distinguishes this species from any other coastal *Lachnagrostis*.

## FLOWERING

Unknown

## FRUITING

Unknown

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unknown, but probably easy from fresh seed and rooted pieces.

## THREATS

Threats to this species include grazing, competition with creeping bent (*Agrostis stolonifera*) and *Elytrigia* spp. Some salt marsh habitat has been lost through reclamation.

## 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-tenuis/>