

Poa hesperia

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Poa hesperia Edgar

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

POAHES

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

SIMILAR TAXA

Often confused with *Poa colensoi* as *P. hesperia* also forms small tussocks that retain the old leaf bases, but the difference is that these small tussocks are grouped closely together and form a cushion or mat to 1m in diameter. The lower midvein of the lemma of *P. hesperia* has a line of hairs as opposed to a line of bristles found in some forms of *P. colensoi*. The spikelets of *P. hesperia* have a shimmering silver appearance in the field.

ETYMOLOGY

poa: Meadow grass

hesperia: From the Greek hesperos 'evening' (i.e. western), referring to its westerly distribution

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/poa-hesperia/>

