

# Poa pusilla

## SYNONYMS

*Poa pusilla* Berggr. var. *pusilla*; *Poa seticulmis* Petrie; *Poa pusilla* var. *seticulmis* (Petrie) Cockayne; *Poa anceps* var. *debilis* Buchanan; *Poa anceps* var. *æ minima* Buchanan; *Poa anceps* var. *gracilis* Cheeseman

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Poa pusilla* Bergg.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

POAPUS

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

North Island: throughout; South Island: throughout but rarely recorded from eastern plains and dry inland basins; Stewart Island; Three Kings Islands.

## HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine, in open forest, scrub, tussock grassland, in stony places or on sand dunes.



In cultivation ex Woodhill. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 29/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



In cultivation ex Woodhill. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 29/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Slender, often delicate, open, perennial tufts, 5 – c. 35 cm, with few, very narrow, flaccid, bright green leaves, and slender, long-creeping rhizome; branching extravaginal; leaf-blades persistent. **Leaf-sheath** greenish purple becoming light brown, ± membranous, distinctly keeled, ribs strong, whitish, shaggy pubescent-scabrid, or minutely scabrid throughout or only near hyaline margins, occasionally with a few longer hairs on margins near ligule, rarely completely glabrous. **Ligule** 0.2–0.5 mm, truncate, ciliate, sometimes erose, abaxially with minute hairs. **Leaf-blade** (1)–5–15–(25) cm × c. 0.5 mm diameter, folded, rarely flat and wider, margins inrolled, abaxially distinctly ribbed, glabrous, adaxially with scattered short hairs especially on midrib, tip subacute to curved, scabrid on midrib. **Culm** 3–30–(50) cm, very slender, erect or drooping above, internodes glabrous. **Panicle** 1.5–8.5 cm; branches spreading, few, filiform, scabrid, bearing 1–4 spikelets at tips. **Spikelets** 3–7.5 mm, 2–5–(7)-flowered, yellow-green, faintly purplish. **Glumes** subequal, 2–4–(4.5) mm, 3-nerved, narrow elliptic- to ovate-lanceolate, acute or subacute, smooth, midnerve and sometimes lateral nerves sparsely scabrid. **Lemma** 2–4–(5) mm, 5-nerved, oblong- to ovate-elliptic, obtuse, midnerve with long silky crinkled hairs in lower ½, sometimes scabrid above hairs, lateral nerves usually with conspicuous silky hairs near base or in lower ½, internerves usually smooth, rarely finely scabrid, with hyaline band at slightly erose tip. **Palea** 2–3.5 mm, keels short ciliate-scabrid, interkeel short pubescent-scabrid, flanks smooth to scabrid. **Callus** with thick tuft of long, silky crinkled hairs. **Rachilla** (0.3)–0.6–0.8 mm, with scattered long hairs. **Lodicules** c. 0.5 mm. **Anthers** 1–2 mm. **Caryopsis** c. 1 × 0.5 mm. 2n= 28.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

## ETYMOLOGY

**poa**: Meadow grass

**pusilla**: Small

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared by Marley Ford (28 December 2021). Brief description, Distribution, Habitat, Features and copied from Edgar & Connor (2010).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Edgar E, Connor HE. 2010. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses, 2nd edition. Manaaki Whenua Press, Christchurch, NZ. 650 p.

## MORE INFORMATION

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