

Agrostis muelleriana

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

SIMILAR TAXA

Agrostis subulata Hook.f. which is confined to the Antipodes and Campbell Islands and has light green or occasionally purple-tinged, minutely pubescent-scabrid glumes.

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North Island, uncommon, central mountains only. South Island, throughout the mountains. Indigenous to Australia (New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania)

HABITAT

Montane to alpine in scree, rocky ground, fell field and in seepages

GENUS

Agrostis

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Agrostis muelleriana Vickery

SYNONYMS

Agrostis canina var. *beta* Hook.f.; *A. gelida* F.Muell., *A. canina* var. *beta gelida* (F.Muell.) Buchanan, *A. muelleri* Benth.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Florets are dispersed by wind and water (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Grows very well in small pots and within a rockery but requires a shaded spot at low altitudes and dislikes humidity. Will not flower unless subjected to cold treatment.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available



Mt Balaclava, February. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ETYMOLOGY

agrostis: Greek name for a kind of grass

muelleriana: Named after Baron Ferdinand von Mueller, 19th century German/Australian botanist and founder of the National Herbarium of Victoria

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

NVS CODE

AGRMUE

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 42$

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/agrostis-muelleriana/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026