

Agrostis muscosa

COMMON NAMES

pincushion grass

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island from eastern Bay of Plenty south to the South Wellington coastline. South Island throughout except Westland. Stewart Island.

HABITAT

Lowland in coastal turf and gravel, otherwise montane, subalpine to alpine on stone pavements, within tussock grassland, on tarn and lake margins and in fell field.

GENUS

Agrostis

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Agrostis muscosa Kirk

SYNONYMS

Agrostis aemula subsp. *beta* *spathacea* Berggr., *A. parviflora* var. *perpusilla* Hookf., *A. canina* var. *gamma*

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 and rooted pieces. Does very well in pots, and can be grown in most situations. Does not like humidity.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).



Old Man Range, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Dunstan. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

ETYMOLOGY

agrostis: Greek name for a kind of grass

muscosa: Moss-like

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

NVS CODE

AGRMUS

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Declining | Qualifiers: CI, DPS, DPT, NStr, PF, Sp, TL 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-muscosa/>

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27 May 2026