

Agrostis petriei

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: Sp, DPR, DPS, DPT, De

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Loosely erect, tussock forming, bluish-green to greyish green clump-forming grass 150–550 mm tall, with slender, involute, finely scabrid leaves.

SIMILAR TAXA

Agrostis petriei is readily recognised by its rigid, strictly involute, wiry blue-green to grey-green leaf-blades, which are very obviously, densely scabrid-papillose. Unlike the other indigenous *Agrostis taxa*, *A. petriei* favours very dry sites within lowland to subalpine areas. It is usually found on rock outcrops or along river flats within ablation zones or within open stony pavements on river flats.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island from Canterbury to Central Otago.

HABITAT

Montane to subalpine on dry stony ground, cliff faces and rock outcrops. Also on river flats and within tussock grassland.

GENUS

Agrostis

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Agrostis petriei Hack.

SYNONYMS

Agrostis petriei Hack. var. *petriei*; *Agrostis petriei* var. *mutica* Hack.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October–January

FRUITING

December–March

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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



PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and rooted pieces but dislikes humidity and will not flower unless subjected to cold treatment.

ETYMOLOGY

agrostis: Greek name for a kind of grass

petriei: Named after Donald Petrie (1846 -1925), Scottish born Otago botanist

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to the grasses of New Zealand

NVS CODE

AGRPET

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Data Deficient | Qualifiers: TL Help

Current regional threat status assessments prepared according to Crisp et al. (2025) are displayed when available.

The 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

Allan HH. 1961. Flora of New Zealand, Volume I. Indigenous Tracheophyta: Psilopsida, Lycopsidea, Filicopsida, Gymnospermae, Dicotyledones. Government Printer, Wellington, NZ. 1085

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. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000).

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MORE INFORMATION

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

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