

Anthoxanthum novae-zelandiae

COMMON NAMES

alpine holy grass

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, Mt Egmont only. South Island from Nelson south. Stewart Island/Rakiura.

HABITAT

An alpine species of stream sides, tarn margins, cushion bogs, flushes and seepages in tussock grassland and fell field.

GENUS

Anthoxanthum

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Anthoxanthum novae-zelandiae (Gand.) de Lange & C.J. James

SYNONYMS

Hierochloe novae-zelandiae Gand.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

ETYMOLOGY

novae-zelandiae: Of New Zealand

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

NVS CODE

HIENOV

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28



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 Not Threatened | Qualifiers: 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

Johnson AT, Smith HA. 1986. Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning. Landsman Bookshop Ltd, Buckenhill, UK.

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/anthoxanthum-novae-zelandiae/>

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