

Anthoxanthum recurvatum

COMMON NAMES

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 in mountains from East Cape south. South Island along main divide, local in the east at Canterbury and Otago.

GENUS

Anthoxanthum

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Anthoxanthum recurvatum (Hack.) de Lange & C.J. James

SYNONYMS

Hierochloe fraseri var. *recurvata* Hack., *H. alpina* var. *recurvata* (Hack.) Zotov, *Hierochloe recurvata* (Hack.) Zotov

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

NVS CODE

HIEREC

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 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-recurvatum/>

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