

Austrostipa stipoides

COMMON NAMES

coastal immortality grass, buggar grass

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North Island, From Te Paki to about Taranaki and Ohiwa Harbour, thence absent until the Cook Strait. South Island, Nelson only.

GENUS

Austrostipa

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Austrostipa stipoides (Hook.f.) S.W.L. Jacobs et J. Everett

SYNONYMS

Dichelachne stipoides Hook.f., *Stipa stipoides* (Hook.f.) Veldkamp, *S. teretifolia* Steud.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally offered by specialist native plant nurseries.

ETYMOLOGY

austrostipa: From the Latin australis 'southern', and stipa 'fiber'

stipoides: Like *Stipa*, another grass

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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



Whangapoua harbour. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Parengarenga Harbour. Photographer: John Sawyer, Licence: CC BY-NC.

NVS CODE

AUSSTI

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 44

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

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the [“Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland”](#) Simpkins E 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/austrostipa-stipoides/>

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25 May 2026