

Chionochloa flavicans f. temata

COMMON NAMES

Te Mata Peak snow tussock

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tall, rather stout, often sprawling, flabellate tussock with persistent leaves and sheaths. **Leaf-sheath** to 150 mm, pinkish or purplish, chartaceous, entire, becoming fibrous, keeled, glabrous or with a few long hairs, apical tuft of hairs to 1 mm. **Ligule** to 0.7 mm. Leaf-blade to 750 × 8 mm, dark green, often distinctly glaucous, keeled, persistent, glabrous except for some short hairs above ligule and prickle-teeth on margins and abaxially at apex. **Culm** to 1.5 m, internodes glabrous. Inflorescence to 300 mm, clavate, dense and compact, not naked below; rachis smooth below, branches and pedicels densely scabrid and with some long hairs at branch axils. **Spikelets** of up to 4 distant florets. **Glumes** to 4 mm, broad, shallowly bifid, sometimes purpled, margins ciliate, prickle-teeth adaxially above, < nearest lemma lobes; lower 3-nerved, upper 5-nerved. **Lemma** to 4 mm, shorter and broader than typical form; hairs dense on margin, few aside central nerve, rarely reaching sinus, prickle-teeth above adaxially and abaxially on nerves; lateral lobes to 0.2 mm, conspicuously awned adjacent to a small lobe; central awn to 6 mm, reflexed, column absent. **Palea** to 4.5 mm, interkeel with a few short hairs. **Callus** to 1.5 mm, hairs to 4 mm. **Rachilla** to 0.25 mm. **Lodicules** to 1 mm. **Anthers** to 4 mm. **Ovary** to 1 mm; stigma-styles to 3 mm. **Seeds** to 3 mm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Very closely related to *C. flavicans* Zotov. f. *flavicans* from which it differs by its smaller over all floret dimensions, more compact growth habit, and leaves which are often distinctly blue-tinged.

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, Hawke's Bay, where it is only known from Te Mata Peak, Havelock North.

HABITAT

Confined to limestone cliffs where it can at times be locally dominant.

THREATS

A narrow range limestone endemic, naturally confined to a localized limestone outcrop where it is one of the more common species present.

GENUS

Chionochloa

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Chionochloa flavicans f. temata Connor

SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1991)

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes



ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

September–November

FRUITING

November–May

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unlike its close relative *C. flavicans* f. *flavicans*, f. *temata* has proved to be rather slow growing and often fickle in cultivation. It is an attractive plant with slightly more glaucous leaves than f. *flavicans*, and so well worth trying to grow.

CULTIVATION

Occasionally offered by specialist native plant nurseries.

ETYMOLOGY

chionochloa: Snow grass

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2004 | Range Restricted

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Edgar E, Connor HE. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Christchurch, Manaaki Whenua Press. 650 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000).

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NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Chionochloa flavicans* f. *temata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/chionochloa-flavicans-f-temata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/chionochloa-flavicans-f-temata/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026