

Echinopogon ovatus

COMMON NAMES

forest hedgehog grass, hedgehog grass

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, PF, SO?

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

GENUS

Echinopogon

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Echinopogon ovatus (G.Forst.) P.Beauv.

SYNONYMS

Agrostis ovata G.Forst.; *Cinna ovata* (G.Forst.) Kunth; *E. purpurascens* Gran.; *E. novae-zelandiae* Grand.

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed. Does best in a sheltered, sunny site, in free draining soil enriched with lime.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

NVS CODE

ECHOVA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 42$



Echinopogon ovatus. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Close up of *Echinopogon ovatus*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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 At Risk – Regionally Declining | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, SO 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.

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

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/echinopogon-ovatus/>

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25 May 2026