

Festuca novae-zelandiae

COMMON NAME

fescue tussock, hard tussock

SYNONYMS

Festuca ovina subsp. *matthewsii* Hack.; *Festuca ovina* var. *novae-zelandiae* (Hack.) Cheeseman; *Festuca ovina* subsp. *novae-zelandiae* var. *eu-novae-zelandiae* Howarth; *Festuca ovina* subsp. *novae-zelandiae* var. *novae-zelandiae* subvar. *novae-zelandiae*; *Festuca ovina* subsp. *novae-zelandiae* var. *novae-zelandiae* subvar. *pruinosa* Howarth

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Festuca novae-zelandiae (Hack.) Cockayne

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

FESNOV

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

LIFE CYCLE

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

ETYMOLOGY

festuca: From the Latin *festuca* 'stem' or 'blade of grass'

novae-zelandiae: Of New Zealand



Festuca novae-zelandiae. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Festuca novae-zelandiae. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

WHERE TO BUY

Commonly sold by retail plant nurseries, often erroneously as *Carex novae-zelandiae*.

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/festuca-novae-zelandiae/>