

Hierochloe equisetata

COMMON NAME

holy grass

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Hierochloe equisetata Zotov

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

HIEEQU

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 41

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South and Stewart Islands only. Nelson and Marlborough sparse, common from Canterbury south.

HABITAT

An alpine species of stream sides, damp flushes, seepages, tarn margins and cushion bogs, often within tussock grassland.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

LIFE CYCLE

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



ETYMOLOGY

hierochloe: From the Greek hieros 'sacred' and chloa 'grass' meaning holy grass. European species of this grass were once strewn on church floors.

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

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/hierochloe-equiseta/>