

Lachnagrostis uda

COMMON NAME

swamp wind grass

SYNONYMS

None

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Lachnagrostis uda Edgar

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

LACUDA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 98

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Data Deficient


DISTRIBUTION

Endemic to the South island. Known from scattered sites from south-western Canterbury, through central and western Otago. Probably more widespread than this as easily overlooked.

HABITAT

An alpine to subalpine species of sedge-dominated wetlands.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial grass forming loose tufts 9–35 cm. **Branching** extravaginal. **Leaf-sheath** faintly ribbed, hairless, light green to dull brown. **Ligule** 1–2.5 mm, truncate or toothed, sparsely and finely scabrid (with teeth). **Leaf-blade** 3–10–(15) cm × 1–2 mm, flat or folded, smooth, undersides with sparse teeth on ribs, leaf margins sparsely scabrid, leaf tip obtuse. **Culm** 4–20 cm, often included within uppermost leaf-sheath, internodes finely scabrid below panicle. **Panicle** 3–14 × 1.5–8 cm, contracted at first, at maturity an open lax inflorescence. **Spikelets** (2.5–)3–3.5–(4) mm, pale green or tinged faint purple. **Glumes** equal, elliptic-lanceolate, midnerve and margins scabrid in upper ¼. **Lemna** 2–2.5 mm, ¾ length of glumes, with scattered soft hairs, rarely hairless, lateral nerves not evident, awn absent or if present straight, up to 2.5 mm. **Anthers** 0.7–1.3 mm. **Callus hairs** copious and conspicuous, covering ½– the lemma. **Seed** 1.2–1.8 × 0.5–0.6 mm.



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MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to the grasses of New Zealand

SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *Lachnagrostis striata* and *L. lyallii*. Differs from *L. striata* by the longer anthers (0.7–1.3 mm cf. 0.2–0.5 mm in *L. striata*). Differs from *L. lyallii* by the much shorter (to 2.5 mm cf. 2–6 mm), straight (rather than bent) awns. From both species, and all *Lachnagrostis* species (except *L. glabra*) it can be distinguished by the sparsely hairy lemma. It differs from *L. glabra* by the conspicuous callus hairs subtending the palea, and by the palea $\frac{1}{2}$ – the length of the lemma.

FLOWERING

No information available

FRUITING

No information available

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown by division and provided it is kept damp will grow readily. Dislikes warm, humid climates, and will not flower in these conditions. Easy from fresh seed.

THREATS

Described in 1995. *Lachnagrostis uda* is probably not threatened but there are very few recent (>1980) collections.

ETYMOLOGY

lachnagrostis: From “lachne” (wool) referring to the distinctive callus hairs of this genus and “agrostis” by which Trinius (1820) actually meant “a grass” (not an *Agrostis*). So the generic name means “a hairy (woolly) grass” not “a hairy (woolly) *Agrostis*” as is often incorrectly stated (see Gardner 2014).

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATtribution

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lachnagrostis-uda/>