

# 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

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

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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.

## FEATURES

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 quarter. Lemma 2-2.5 mm, three quarters 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 between one half and two thirds of the lemma. Seed 1.2-1.8 × 0.5-0.6 mm.



Remarkables. Photographer: John Barkla



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### SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *L. striata* and *L. lyallii*. Differs from *L. striata* by the longer anthers (0.7-1.3 mm cf. 0.2-0.5 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 one half to two thirds 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, H.E. 2000: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Christchurch, Manaaki Whenua Press. 650 pp.

### MORE INFORMATION

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