Lachnagrostis uda

COMMON NAMES
swamp wind grass

BIOSTATUS
Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS
2023 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: Sp, DPR, DPS, DPT, RR
Jump to previous conservation statuses

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Grasses

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. **Lemma** 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 lemm**Seed** 1.2–1.8 × 0.5–0.6 mm.


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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 ½–≣ the length of the lemma.

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.

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

GENUS
Lachnagrostis

FAMILY
Poaceae

AUTHORITY
Lachnagrostis uda Edgar

SYNONYMS
None

ENDEMIC TAXON
Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
No information available

FRUITING
No information available

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

WHERE TO BUY
Not commercially available

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).

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY
Key to the grasses of New Zealand

NVS CODE
LACUDA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER
2n = 98

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES
2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DP, RR, Sp
2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: RR, Sp
2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon
2004 | Data Deficient
Jump to current conservation status

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES
Otago: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NS, NStr, RR, Sp, St
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
Edgar E, Connor HE. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Manaaki Whenua Press, Christchurch, NZ. 650 p.

ATTRIBUTION

Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000).
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MORE INFORMATION

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

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08 July 2026