

# Poa cita

## COMMON NAMES

silver tussock

## BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Dense, light green-yellow, shiny tussock, usually 30-100 cm tall.

## DISTRIBUTION

North Island: throughout, but rare in the west from Raglan to Manawatu except on Mt Egmont. South Island: throughout. Also on Kermadec, Stewart Island/Rakiura, and Chatham Islands/Rekohu.

## HABITAT

Lowland to subalpine. Grassland, grazed pasture, open scrub and forest, coastal cliffs; on relatively fertile soils.

## GENUS

Poa

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Poa cita* Edgar

## SYNONYMS

*Poa caespitosa* Spreng.; *Poa caespitosa* var. *leioclada* Hack.; *Poa caespitosa* var. *planifolia* Petrie; *Poa laevis* var.  $\beta$  *filifolia* Hook.f.

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Wind dispersed seed

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

## ETYMOLOGY

**poa**: Meadow grass



Tiwai Peninsula, Southland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Licence: CC BY-NC.



In cultivation. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 08/06/2001, Licence: CC BY.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to the grasses of New Zealand

### NVS CODE

POACIT

### CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 84

### PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

### REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened 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, H. E. 2000: *Flora of New Zealand Vol. V. Gramineae*. Manaaki Whenua Press, Lincoln, New Zealand.

### ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Melissa Hutchison (5 July 2024). Information adapted from Flora of New Zealand Volume V (Edgar & Connor 2000).

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### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/poa-cita/>

### PDF DATE

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