

Poa incrassata

SYNONYMS

Poa kirkii var. *incrassata* (Petrie) Zotov; *Poa exigua* Hook.f.

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Poa incrassata Petrie

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

NVS CODE

POAINC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

$2n = 28$

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

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

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

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

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon

2004 | Sparse

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. South Island Central and western Otago to north eastern Southland. Also on Stewart Island/Rakiura and Auckland Islands.

HABITAT

Subalpine to alpine (> 1100 m a.s.l.) in damp ground within herbfield, fell field and open, windswept, poorly drained short tussock grassland.



DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Diminutive, blue-green to grey-green, stoutly tufted, perennial grass 50–150 mm tall; branching extravaginal at plant base, intravaginal above; leaf-blades long persistent. **Leaf-sheath** lustrous, greenish or reddish purple, later light grey-brown, membranous, glabrous, ribs conspicuous. **Ligule** 0.2–0.7 mm, apically glabrous, entire, rounded centrally narrowed to a point, lower surface minutely papillose. **Leaf-blade** 10–90 × 0.6–2 mm, usually folded, underside smooth, though scabrid on midrib near curved apex, upperside glabrous through shortly hairy above ligule, occasionally with a few prickle-teeth on midrib, lateral ribs indistinct; margins inrolled, shortly prickle-toothed. **Culm** 20–160 mm, internodes usually short-scabrid below panicle, sometimes smooth. **Panicle** 5–30 mm, compact, spike-like or racemose (pendulous), rarely open with a few rather short branches; rachis and branches stiff, angular, densely scabrid, spikelets few on scabrid pedicels. **Spikelets** 2.5–3.5 mm, 2–4-flowered, light green tinged maroon or purple. **Glumes** subequal, 1.5–2.5 mm, glabrous, with sparse prickle-teeth on nerves in upper half; lower glume occasionally smaller 1–1.5 mm, 1–3-nerved, narrow- to ovate-elliptic, subobtuse to obtuse, upper 3-nerved, ovate, obtuse. **Lemma** 2.2.5 mm, 5–7-nerved, ovate, strongly folded about midnerve, obtuse, cucullate, minutely papillose or finely scabrid near distinctly membranous margin, midnerve scabrid towards apex. **Callus** glabrous. **Anthers** 0.2–0.5 mm, purple. **Ovary** 0.4–0.5 mm; stigma styles 0.75–1.1 mm. **Seed** 1–1.3 × 0.5 mm.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to the grasses of New Zealand

SIMILAR TAXA

The stout, tufted, glaucous to reddish-purple tinged leaves and panicles, and diminutive over all stature easily distinguish this species from other New Zealand *Poa*. It is perhaps most likely to be confused with *P. sublimis* Edgar which has somewhat a similar coloration and overall stature. However, *P. incrassata* differs from that species by its scabrid, short, stiff panicle branches and spikelet pedicels.

FLOWERING

December–January

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple

FRUITING

January–March

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown in a small pot but dislikes humidity and should be kept in a cool place with some air movement. Will not flower in lowland situations without some form of cold treatment.

THREATS

A high elevation species that appears to be secure over its known range. Populations tend to be small and scattered but this appears to be natural rather than induced. Its status on the Auckland Islands is unclear though its small size has undoubtedly meant that it has been overlooked both there and in the South and Stewart Islands.

ETYMOLOGY

poa: Meadow grass

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by Peter J. de Lange (2 June 2006). 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.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Poa incrassata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/poa-incrassata/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

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