

Poa schistacea

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)



CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

A distinctive species distinguished by its eroding rock or scree habitat, diffusely rhizomatous habit (though plants in some areas can be shortly rhizomatous and forming dense erect tufts), narrow inrolled yellow-green to grey-green leaves, laterally compressed spike, acute glumes and lemma which has obvious tufts of hairs at the base.

DISTRIBUTION

Northeastern Southland and western Otago. Ultramafic and schist mountains from the Livingstone Range to the Otago Lakes District.

HABITAT

Scree and rock debris piles derived from schist or ultramafic rock, often in damp areas.

GENUS

Poa

FAMILY

Poaceae

AUTHORITY

Poa schistacea Edgar

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

ETYMOLOGY

poa: Meadow grass

schistacea: Schist-coloured, grey bordering on blue

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to the grasses of New Zealand](#)

NVS CODE

POASCH

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

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 At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: DPR, DPS, DPT, NR, NS, NStr, RR, Sp, TL 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.

MORE INFORMATION

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

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