

# Trisetum spicatum

## SYNONYMS

*Aira spicata* L., *A. subspicata* L., *Trisetum subspicata* (L.) P. Beauv.

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Trisetum spicatum* (L.) K.Richt.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

TRISPI

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 28

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. New Zealand: South Island where it grows in high alpine situations mainly east of the divide, Chatham Islands, Auckland Islands and Campbell Island/Motu Ihupuku.

## HABITAT

The mainland form grows in subalpine to alpine vegetation, typically in open rocky ground in fell field, herbfield, scree, rock outcrops, cliff faces or tussock grassland. Often found growing with *Koeleria cheesemanii* (Hack.) Petrie. The Chatham Island variant grows in dune swales. The subantarctic variant grows on peat and in rock crevices at sea level.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

Key to the grasses of New Zealand

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and division of whole plants. Dislikes humidity, and does best in free draining, damp soils within a cool, airy site. Excellent in an alpine house. The typical form of this species will not flower at lower altitudes unless plants are subjected to 1–2 months cold treatment.

## ETYMOLOGY

**trisetum**: Three-bristled

**spicatum**: Grows ears (like corn), in spikes



Old Man Range, Otago. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

#### WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available

#### NOTES ON TAXONOMY

New Zealand *T. spicatum* is very variable. Plants from the subantarctic islands are very distinct from mainland New Zealand plants, as are those from the Chatham Islands. Further study into this variation is needed.

#### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/trisetum-spicatum/>