

# Anthosachne kingiana subsp. multiflora

## COMMON NAME

blue grass, blue wheat grass

## SYNONYMS

*Triticum multiflorum* Hook.f., *Agropyron multiflorum* (Hook.f.) Cheeseman, *A. kirkii* Zotov, *A. multiflorum* var. *longisetum* Hack., *A. kirkii* var. *longisetum* (Hack.) Zotov, *Elymus multiflorus* var. *longisetus* (Hack.) Á.Löve et Connor; *Elymus multiflorus* (Hook.f.) Á.Löve et Connor subsp. *multiflorus*; *Anthosachne multiflora* (Hook.f.) C.Yen et J.L.Yang subsp. *multiflora*

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Anthosachne kingiana* subsp. *multiflora* (Banks et Sol. ex Hook.f.) Govaerts

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Declining | Qualifiers: DP, SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Data Deficient

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. In New Zealand present from the Three Kings Islands south throughout the North Island to the South Island from Nelson to Banks Peninsula. Also present in Eastern Australia.

## HABITAT

Primarily a coastal species of cliff faces, and rocky ground, utilising rocks of various substrates but showing a decided preference for base-rich substrates such as limestone, calcareous mudstone, siltstone and sandstones, basalt or the zeolite-rich facies of greywacke. On offshore islands it occasionally grows on open clay pans.



Maunganui area, Northland. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken: 16/12/2015, Licence: Public domain.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tufted, stoloniferous, glaucous to green grass. **Leaf-sheath** 6–10 mm, striate, glabrous or retrorsely short hairy. **Ligule** 0.2–0.5 mm, margin frayed. **Leaf-blade** 100–200 × 2–4 mm, flat bright green or glaucous, ribbed, underside with small antrorse teeth or glabrous, upper with antrorse short hairs or prickle-teeth on ribs, margin shortly prickle-toothed. **Culm** 300–600(–900) mm, erect, suberect or drooping. Inflorescence 100–250 mm, of up to 6–15 spikelets. **Spikelets** 14–25 mm, of 7–12 florets. **Glumes** ± equal, 5–9 mm, 3–5-nerved, keeled, broad, margins papery, ciliate; keel and nerves prickle-toothed, sometimes extending into a short awn. **Lemma** apex often bifid, awn absent or about length of lemma. **Palea** 9–12 mm, apex truncate, retuse, ciliate. **Rachilla** 1–2.5 mm, hairy. **Callus** 0.75–1 mm, with scattered short hairs. **Anthers** 3–5 mm, purple or yellow.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

## SIMILAR TAXA

Not closely allied to any of the endemic New Zealand species and unlikely to be confused with any of them. Long-awned forms could be confused with short-awned variants of *Anthosachne solandri*, but the awns in that species are recurved never straight.

## FLOWERING

September–February

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, Yellow

## FRUITING

October–May

## LIFE CYCLE

Florets are dispersed by wind and attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed and rooted pieces. Likes a sunny aspect in free draining soil. The long-awned forms are especially attractive.

## THREATS

North Island populations have declined a lot and now not commonly found unless in little pockets. Competition from weeds is a major issue.

## ETYMOLOGY

**multiflora**: From late Latin, feminine of multiflorus meaning 'bearing many flowers'

## WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally offered by specialist native plant nurseries.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange June 2005. Description adapted from Edgar & Connor (2000).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Barkworth ME, Jacobs SWL. 2011: The Triticeae (Gramineae) in Australasia. *Telopea* 13: 37–56.  
Edgar E, Connor HE. 2000. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Christchurch, Manaaki Whenua Press. 650 p.  
Govaerts R. 2014. New combinations for Philip Island wheat grass, *Anthosachne kingiana* subsp. *kingiana* (Poaceae). *Journal of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens* 27: 23–24.

### **NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/anthosachne-kingiana-subsp-multiflora/> (Date website was queried)

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/anthosachne-kingiana-subsp-multiflora/>