

# Lachnagrostis filiformis

## COMMON NAME

New Zealand wind grass

## SYNONYMS

*Avena filiformis* G.Forst., *Agrostis filiformis* (G.Forst.) Spreng., *Calamagrostis filiformis* (G.Forst.) Cockayne, *Deyeuxia filiformis* (G.Forst.) Petrie, *Agrostis avenacea* J.F.Gmel., *Agrostis forsteri* Roem. et Schult., *Deyeuxia forsteri* (Roem. et Schult.) Kunth, *Agrostis solandri* F.Muell.

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Lachnagrostis filiformis* (G.Forst.) Trin.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

No

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## NVS CODE

LACFIL

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 56

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. Common throughout New Zealand. Found in Australia and on many of the Pacific Islands.

## HABITAT

Coastal to subalpine. Widespread in a variety of open situations and often found as an urban weed, especially in waste land around puddles and in muddy ground. Common around lakes, and fringing ponds, streams and on wetland margins. An opportunistic species that has probably increased its range following human settlement.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).




Pa Hill, Coromandel. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rather variable, usually slender, upright, tufted, glaucous green, light green to yellow green, annual or short-lived perennial grass up to 700 mm tall; whole plant usually withering early and culms not breaking up below panicle. Branching intravaginal. **Leaf-sheath** firmly membranous, distinctly ribbed, glabrous below, very finely scabrid above. light green, later light brown. **Ligule** 1–5 mm, oblong, rounded or tapered, later lacerate, undersides with sparse prickle-teeth. **Leaf-blade** 25–200 × 1.5–3.0 mm, usually flat, sometimes involute and 0.5–1.0 mm diameter, glabrous, or ribs scabrid; margins very finely scabrid, apex finely acute. **Culm** 100–350 mm, erect to spreading, internodes usually densely, minutely scabrid, occasionally smooth. **Panicle** 90–300 × 5–250 mm, yellow green, faintly purple-green drying white, delicate, enclosed at base by the uppermost leaf-sheath, at first contracted, later very lax; branches filiform, numerous, unequal, very finely scabrid, primary branches naked for much of length, with spikelets in clusters of 2-many, towards tips of the much shorter capillary secondary branches. **Spikelets** 2.5–4.2 mm, pale silvery green to purplish. **Glumes** subequal, acute to acuminate, usually glabrous, membranous, very narrow linear-lanceolate, lower glume usually slightly longer and more acuminate; keel scabrid. **Lemma** 1.3–2.3 mm long, one half to two-thirds length of glumes, 5-nerved, moderately covered with very short hairs, oblong-ovate, glabrous near hyaline, truncate, erose apex, lateral nerves very short excurrent; awn 3–6 mm geniculate, more or less mid-dorsal or form c. upper one third. **Palea**  $\frac{3}{4}$ - length of lemma, keels 0.1 mm apart, apex subobtusate. **Callus** ringed by minute hairs 0.3–0.4 mm, to one quarter of lemma. **Rachilla** prolongation absent or 0.3 mm long tipped with hairs to 0.8 mm long. **Lodicules** 0.5–0.9 mm, linear, acute. **Anthers** 0.2–0.3 mm. **Seed** 0.8–1.3 × 0.3–0.5 mm long.

## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

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

## SIMILAR TAXA

Allied to *L. littoralis* (Hack) Edgar and one of a group of *Lachnagrostis* with geniculate awns and intravaginal branching. It is distinguished from all of these by its annual to short-lived perennial habit, delicate panicle and very narrow leaves (0.5–3.0 mm wide). From *L. littoralis* it differs by the obviously unequal lengths of the naked primary and secondary panicle branches, and by the lemma usually 1.3–2.0 mm (cf. 1.8–3.0 mm long in *L. littoralis*) and anthers 0.2–0.5 rather than 0.4–0.7 mm long. *Lachnagrostis littoralis* subsp. *littoralis* (and most populations of subsp. *L. littoralis salaria* Edgar) is strictly coastal and a much smaller, more delicate usually strictly annual grass than *L. filiformis*.

## FLOWERING

September–April

## FRUITING

October–June

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easy from fresh seed, and infact, can be very weedy.

## ETYMOLOGY

**lachnagrostis**: From “lachne” (wool) referring to the distinctive callus hairs of this genus and “agrostis” by which Trinius (1820) actually meant “a grass” (not an Agrostis). So the generic name means “a hairy (woolly) grass” not “a hairy (woolly) Agrostis” as is often incorrectly stated (see Gardner 2014).

**filiformis**: From the Latin filum ‘thread’ and forma ‘shape’, meaning thread-shaped

## Where To Buy

Not commercially available. Quite weedy and can be found growing in urban and industrial areas.

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 27 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. Christchurch, Manaaki Whenua Press. 650 p.

Gardner RO. 2014. Notes on the wind grass *Lachnagrostis filiformis* (Poaceae). *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 69: 168–170.

Trinius CB. 1820. *Fundamenta Agrostographiae*. JG Huebner, Vienna.

### **NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION**

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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lachnagrostis-filiformis/> (Date website was queried)

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lachnagrostis-filiformis/>