



## *Phormium cookianum subsp. cookianum*

### Common Name(s):

Mountain flax, wharariki

### Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

### Distribution:

Endemic. Scarce in North Island where only known from high alpine situations in the Tararua Ranges, and possible elsewhere within the central axial ranges. Common in the South Island, in subalpine/alpine situations.

### Habitat:

Strictly confined to subalpine, alpine situations.

### Features:

Stout liliaceous herb, 0.6-1(-2) m tall. Leaves numerous, arising from fan-like bases. Individual leaves "paddle-shaped", erect, stiff, rarely decurved or pendulous 0.6-1(-1.5) x 20-80 mm, glaucous. Lamina margin, entire, somewhat thickened and distinctly pigmented by a dark, rather broad often encircling band 3-5 mm wide. Inflorescence (0.8-)1(-2) m tall, somewhat woody and fleshy when fresh, long persistent, drying charcoal grey or black, with the fibrous interior becoming progressively more exposed. Peduncle 20-30 mm diam., inclined, dark red-green, glabrous. Flowers 25-40 mm long, tubular, dull pink or yellow; tips of inner tepals markedly recurved. Ovary erect. Capsules 100-120 mm long, dark green, trigonous in cross-section, pendulous, tapering toward tip, twisted, initially fleshy becoming papery with age, long persistent. Seeds 8-10 x 4-5 mm, black, elliptic, flat and plate-like, margins frilled or twisted.

### Flowering:

(September-) October-  
November (-January)

### Fruiting:

(November-)  
December (-March)

### Threats:

Not Threatened

### For more information, visit:

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=1110](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1110)



**Caption:** Swampy Summit, Dunedin  
**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** Hollyford Valley, Fiordland  
**Photographer:** John Sawyer