



Lachnagrostis littoralis subsp. *littoralis*

Common Name(s):

coastal wind grass

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. Common in coastal habitats throughout the North Island, northern South Island and Chatham Islands

Habitat:

Strictly coastal. Usually on exposed cliff faces, in coastal turf, and amongst boulders or on cobble beaches. Occasionally found in petrel scrub or in damp depressions within sand dune systems. Rarely found in estuaries on mud banks or amongst saltmarsh vegetation.

Features*:

Densely tufted, light green to greyish green or glaucous, annual grass 30-400 mm tall, whole plant often withering early and culms not breaking up below panicle. Branching intravaginal. Leaf-sheath finely striate, subhyaline, smooth or minutely scabrid above. Ligule 0.2-3.0 mm, oblong, tapered, subobtuse or denticulate, sometimes lacerate, undersides sparsely scabrid. Leaf-blade firm 10-80 x 1.5-5 mm, flat, or sometimes involute and 0.5 mm diameter, underside smooth or minutely papillose, rarely scabrid, upper surface minutely scabrid on ribs and margins, leaf tip acute to subobtuse. Culm 10-140 mm, included within leaf-sheaths, internodes finely scabrid below panicle, rarely visible until culm breaks up at maturity. Panicle 20-120 x 5-85 mm, delicate, ± contracted, later spreading, enclosed at base by sheath of uppermost culm-leaf; branches and branchlets ± erect, all ± equal in length, slender, sparsely scabrid, naked for much of their length, the ultimate branchlets tipped by 1-2 spikelets. Spikelets 2.5-6.0 mm, light green or greenish brown, slender. Glumes narrow elliptic-lanceolate, usually equal or the upper slightly shorter, acute to acuminate to shortly mucronate, 1-nerved, smooth, keel scabrid, margins hyaline, finely scabrid above. Lemma 1.5-2.5 mm long, oblong-ovate, 5-nerved with scattered to rather dense short silky hairs, often glabrous above, lateral nerves shortly excurrent, faintly scabrid; awn 3-6 mm long, ± mid-dorsal, geniculate, slightly twisted near base. Palea slightly < lemma, nerves 0.1-0.2 mm apart, keels minutely excurrent, faintly scabrid at apex. Callus hairs dense, very short, to 0.5 mm long covered one-fifth of lemma. Rachilla prolongation minute 0.2-1.0 mm, with hair tuft 0.5-1.5 mm long. Lodicules 0.7 mm long, linear, acute. Anthers 0.3-1.0 mm. Seed 1.0-1.5 x 0.4-0.7 mm.

Flowering:

September - May

Fruiting:

October - June

Threats:

Not Threatened but can be uncommon over parts of its range

*Attribution:

Fact Sheet by P.J. de Lange 14 April June 2005. Description modified from Edgar and Connor (2000)

References and further reading:

Edgar, E.; Connor, H.E. 2000: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. V. Grasses. Christchurch, Manaaki Whenua Press. 650 pp.

Gardner, R.O. 2014: Notes on the wind grass *Lachnagrostis filiformis* (Poaceae). *Auckland Botanical Society Journal* 69: 168-170.

Trinius, C.B. 1820: *Fundamenta Agrostographiae*. J.G.Huebner, Vienna.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=887