

# Chionochloa flavicans f. temata

## COMMON NAME

Te Mata Peak snow tussock

## SYNONYMS

None (first described in 1991)

## FAMILY

Poaceae

## AUTHORITY

Chionochloa flavicans f. temata Connor

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Grasses

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 42

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2009 | At Risk – Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: OL

2004 | Range Restricted

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island, Hawke's Bay, where it is only known from Te Mata Peak, Havelock North.

## HABITAT

Confined to limestone cliffs where it can at times be locally dominant.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tall, rather stout, often sprawling, flabellate tussock with persistent leaves and sheaths. **Leaf-sheath** to 150 mm, pinkish or purplish, chartaceous, entire, becoming fibrous, keeled, glabrous or with a few long hairs, apical tuft of hairs to 1 mm. **Ligule** to 0.7 mm. Leaf-blade to 750 × 8 mm, dark green, often distinctly glaucous, keeled, persistent, glabrous except for some short hairs above ligule and prickle-teeth on margins and abaxially at apex. **Culm** to 1.5 m, internodes glabrous. Inflorescence to 300 mm, clavate, dense and compact, not naked below; rachis smooth below, branches and pedicels densely scabrid and with some long hairs at branch axils. **Spikelets** of up to 4 distant florets. **Glumes** to 4 mm, broad, shallowly bifid, sometimes purpled, margins ciliate, prickle-teeth adaxially above, < nearest lemma lobes; lower 3-nerved, upper 5-nerved. **Lemma** to 4 mm, shorter and broader than typical form; hairs dense on margin, few aside central nerve, rarely reaching sinus, prickle-teeth above adaxially and abaxially on nerves; lateral lobes to 0.2 mm, conspicuously awned adjacent to a small lobe; central awn to 6 mm, reflexed, column absent. **Palea** to 4.5 mm, interkeel with a few short hairs. **Callus** to 1.5 mm, hairs to 4 mm. **Rachilla** to 0.25 mm. **Lodicules** to 1 mm. **Anthers** to 4 mm. **Ovary** to 1 mm; stigma-styles to 3 mm. **Seeds** to 3 mm.



## MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

### Key to the grasses of New Zealand

#### SIMILAR TAXA

Very closely related to *C. flavicans* Zotov. f. *flavicans* from which it differs by its smaller over all floret dimensions, more compact growth habit, and leaves which are often distinctly blue-tinged.

#### FLOWERING

September–November

#### FRUITING

November–May

#### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Unlike its close relative *C. flavicans* f. *flavicans*, f. *temata* has proved to be rather slow growing and often fickle in cultivation. It is an attractive plant with slightly more glaucous leaves than f. *flavicans*, and so well worth trying to grow.

#### THREATS

A narrow range limestone endemic, naturally confined to a localized limestone outcrop where it is one of the more common species present.

#### ETYMOLOGY

**chionochloa**: Snow grass

#### WHERE TO BUY

Occasionally offered by specialist native plant nurseries.

#### ATTRIBUTION

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.

#### NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Chionochloa flavicans* f. *temata* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/chionochloa-flavicans-f-temata/> (Date website was queried)

#### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/chionochloa-flavicans-f-temata/>