



# Stewart's Slender Poa

(*Poa imbecilla*)

## SLENDER POA

Slender Poa is a minor native grass of New Zealand and the only one available as seed in commercial quantities for sowing. All other grasses used in New Zealand are introduced from other countries and naturalised.

- Browntop, chewings fescue, ryegrass and tall fescue from Europe
- Kikuyu from highland tropical Africa
- Paspalum and bromus from South America

As a result, the vast majority of NZ grassland areas are now covered in introduced grasses such as browntop, chewings fescue, ryegrass and others, while native grasses are in decline. The availability of Slender Poa offers the chance to reduce this decline.

Stewart's Slender Poa was bred to be suitable for both native lawns and for revegetation uses.

- A native species widespread throughout most of New Zealand
- Very fine leaf turf forming species
- Shade tolerant
- Drought tolerant

## SPEED OF ESTABLISHMENT

Slow but not dissimilar to browntop.

## REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION

Slender Poa is widespread around New Zealand except in parts of Taranaki, South Westland and Fiordland. It usually grows in forest margins, or gaps in forests but is also common in Christchurch in rocky dry areas.

## USE IN TURF

Slender Poa forms a very fine, dense turf. It is one of the few native species found in dry turf areas but can grow equally well in shaded, moist locations.

Sow at 20 - 25 g/m<sup>2</sup>. It is possible to sow in mixtures with grasses such as browntop and fine fescues.

## USE IN REVEGETATION OF NATIVE AREAS

Slender Poa offers potential for revegetation in a wide range of New Zealand conditions. In nature it is one of the first species to colonise bare ground after fires and disturbance. Its tolerance of shade, drought and its short stature provide an ideal nurse environment as it is unlikely to dominate. It will readily allow shrubs and other species to establish. In these situations seed should be sown at 10 g/m<sup>2</sup>.

*Experts from earth to turf.*

### NEW ZEALAND

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