



## Yellow Oat-grass (*Trisetum flavescens*)



### Biodiversity Action Plan | Cummey Yannoo Beiyen-Feie

#### Background

An indicator for neutral grassland, Yellow Oat-grass is thought to have declined over the years, and is now only known to be present in select sites across the Island.

This Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been reformatted from a Rare Species Action Plan, produced by Wildflowers of Mann in 2004, and approved by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in the same year.

#### Description



The yellowish flower heads are a very attractive feature of the species, making it highly recognisable for a few weeks when in flower.

After flowering, the seed heads close and lose their golden glow making them difficult to identify.

#### British Isles Distribution

This is a European species, native to much of the British Isles, but becoming distinctly less common in the far north and west. It is also less frequent in acid upland areas.

#### Isle of Man Distribution

On Mann, it is recorded at more than ten sites, and recorded as common at Creg Malin (near Peel) and Douglas Head. It is listed in Allen's flora as local, although it is found in all corners of the Island. A thorough survey in 2007 and 2008 however, found no trace of the species at recorded localities. This was with the exception of Scarlett, where it is only found around the grounds of the derelict farmhouse.

It has also been found in a road verge opposite Kentraugh, growing with other species of calcareous conditions. The species has either declined or been over recorded (or both). However, it may yet be found at more sites as has occurred in 2013 (Bradda Head & Port Erin Brooghs) and 2022 (Ramsey Mooragh).

#### Habitat and Ecology

A perennial grass of dry grassland, especially over base rich soil. This is a good indicator species for unimproved grassland and, where it occurs in neutral grasslands, it is almost invariably on a site of high conservation interest.

The species normally grows up to about 50 cm, flowering in June. They can tolerate a fair amount of cutting and grazing but are less tolerant of trampling. They can exist in unmanaged swards, but only on



very dry, thin soils where competitive grasses (such as Cock's-foot and False Oat-grass) would not grow. They require conditions of low fertility to maintain themselves in a mixed sward.

## Legal protection

Not listed on Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Act 1990 and amber-listed under *Plants of Conservation Concern in the Isle of Man 2022*. The species should be scheduled under the Wildlife Act 1990 at its next review.

## Threats

Limited protection of the minimal sites where Yellow Oat-grass is present.

## Reason for BAP

Significant local decline.

## Aims

Protecting the existing sites at Scarlett with Area of Special Scientific Interest designation, and at Kentraugh with Sensitive Verge designation (achieved), would protect the species somewhat. If a more thorough search of the species does not reveal more records.

## Linked BAPS

All Shaking Grass; Action for Wildlife BAPs.

## Delivery Options

It should be introduced to the well-managed calcareous grassland at Kallow Point, Port St Mary.

## Active

## Challenges

## Delivery Plan

### Strategy

The Wildflowers of Mann Project has successfully raised seedlings for nursery propagation of the species. These will be grown in habitat beds at the MWT Mullen e Cloie Nature Reserve, where they can be used as stock plants for introductions if needed.

Yellow Oat-grass should be used in creative conservation work on all dry calcareous schemes on the Island. For example, at the Ronaldsway runway extension, and works around Turkeyland Quarry.

### Lead

Manx Wildlife Trust

### Action

Establish in habitat beds.

### Timing

2008

### Responsibility

Wildflowers of Mann

Work on site protection.

2009 Onwards

Wildflowers of Mann, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Department of Infrastructure

Continue to survey.

2009 Onwards

Wildflowers of Mann

Introduce to other sites.

2009 Onwards

Wildflowers of Mann



Review.	Summer 2011	Wildflowers of Mann, Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
<b>Annual Updates</b>		
<b>Year</b>		
2008	Seeds collected from Scarlett Quarry sown and plants established.	
2009	Plants grown at MWT Mullen e Cloie Nature Reserve for seed and divisions.	
2010-2011	Plants introduced to Turkeyland Quarry.	
2012	Turkeyland Quarry site abandoned as grazing will not be possible.	
2013	Colony at Ronaldsway lost to airfield development. New populations found at Bradda Head and Port Erin Brooghs.	
2017	Population found at Strandhall verge (bottom of Fishers Hill).	
2022	Introduction of twenty plants to MWT Billown Nature Reserve extension site. Re-finding at Ramsey Mooragh (in central reservation of the Promenade).	
2023	Good survival of plants at MWT Billown Nature Reserve with at least five plants in flower.	

