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Poa flabellata

[Synonyms : *Dactylis caespitosa*, *Festuca antarctica*, *Festuca caespitosa*, *Festuca flabellata*, *Festuca urvilleana*, *Parodiochloa flabellata*, *Poa caespitosa*, *Poa controversa*, *Poa controversa* var. *minor*, *Poa forsteri*, *Sesleria americana*]

TUSSAC GRASS is a grass. Native to Chile, and the Falkland Islands, it has green flower spikelets.

It is also known as Tussle girse, and Tussock grass.

The flowers are pollinated by the wind.

Flabellata is derived from Latin *flabellum* (small fan) meaning ‘open fan-shaped’.

When a permanent community was established on the Falkland Islands (which lie east of southern Argentina and are otherwise known as *Islas Malvinas*) the farmers who settled there introduced sheep which appear to have gloried in tussac grass as they grazed it to extinction. Even today at the beginning of the 21st Century some botanists are said to have periodic bouts bewailing this unforeseen fact as tussac grass is/was acclaimed for being especially nutritious and could have offered a gene bank from which other nutritious grasses could have been developed for other regions.

Some authorities suggest that the short fleshy leaf-stem bases could provide an edible sweet and juicy, nutty-flavoured delicacy.