



Gunnera tinctoria

Common Name(s):

Chilean rhubarb

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Very scattered throughout New Zealand, but commonest in high rainfall areas, e.g. South Taranaki, Westland

Habitat:

Margins of wetlands, damp cliffs and banks, often in light shade.

Features*:

Giant, clump-forming, gynomonocious, summergreen herb, with short, stout, horizontal rhizomes. Winter resting buds massive, to about 25cm long. Lvs to about 2.5 m high, rhubarb-like, but rough to the touch. Petiole to 1m long, studded with conic, short, often reddish, prickles. Inflorescence spike-like and up to 1 m long, with very small flowers. small round orange fruit 1.5-2 mm long.

Flowering:

October and November

Fruiting:

Autumn

*Attribution:

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Webb et al., (1988).

References and further reading:

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. (1988). Flora of New Zealand Volume 4: Naturalised pteridophytes, gymnosperms, dicotyledons. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

Williams, PA; Ogle, CC, Timmins, SM; La Cock, G; Clarkson, J (2005). Chilean rhubarb (*Gunnera tinctoria*); biology, ecology and conservation impacts in New Zealand. DOC Research & Development Series no.210. Dept of Conservation, Wellington.



Caption: *Gunnera tinctoria*

Photographer: Trevor James (AgResearch)



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For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=4015