



Houttuynia cordata

Common Name(s):

Houttuynia

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. Wetlands, gardens, freshwater margins, damp ground, forest, shrubland and fenland.

Features:

Dense, deciduous (semi-evergreen in warm areas) groundcover herb to 1m. Slender couch-like rhizomes. Stems creeping and semi-ascending. leaves heart-shaped, up to 7 cm long, usually variegated cream, bronze, scarlet and green, soon reverting to green. Peppery scent when crushed. Flowerhead a small spike with minute flowers and 4 white bracts (petals) at the base, Dec-Feb. Usually dies back to rootstock over winter.

Flowering:

December, January, February

References and further reading:

Johnson, A. T. and Smith, H. A (1986). *Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning.* Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

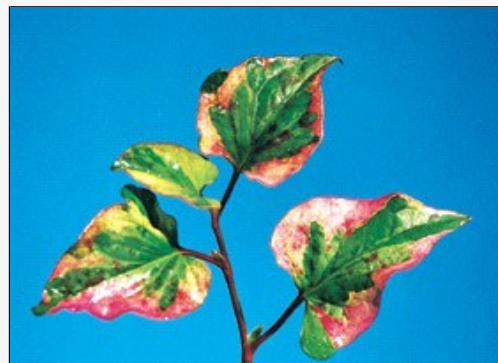
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=4113



Caption: *Houttuynia cordata*

Photographer: Richard Hursthouse



Caption: *Houttuynia cordata*

Photographer: ARC