



Gunnera manicata

Common Name(s):

Brazilian giant-rhubarb; giant rhubarb

Habitat:

In cultivation requires wet conditions - pond and stream margins, bogs. Seedlings sometimes appear near planted plants in NZ but have been seen 'escaped' in e.g. the Isle of Mull in 2013 (pers.obs. C C Ogle)

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:

Flowering spikes longer and narrower than in *G. tinctoria* (see above)

Fruiting:

Each spike is capable of producing

References and further reading:

Webb, CJ; Sykes, WR; Garnock-Jones, PJ 1988 Flora of NZ Vol.3. Botany Division, DSIR, NZ

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=7677



Caption: Dunedin Botanic Garden
Photographer: John Barkla



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