



Ecological Weeds of Whitireia Park



Table of Contents

Introduction	1
<i>Agapanthus praecox</i> subsp. <i>orientalis</i>	2
<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>	3
<i>Asparagus scandens</i>	4
<i>Chrysanthemoides monilifera</i> subsp. <i>monilifera</i>	5
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	6
<i>Cotyledon orbiculata</i> var. <i>orbiculata</i>	7
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	8
<i>Cytisus scoparius</i>	9
<i>Elaeagnus x reflexa</i>	10
<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	11
<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	12
<i>Malva dendromorpha</i>	13
<i>Metrosideros excelsa</i>	14
<i>Pennisetum clandestinum</i>	15
<i>Pittosporum crassifolium</i>	16
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	17
<i>Senecio glastifolius</i>	18
<i>Tradescantia fluminensis</i>	19
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	20
<i>Vinca major</i>	21

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Agapanthus praecox subsp. orientalis

Common Name(s):

agapanthus

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial.

Features:

Robust, clump-forming perennial. Rhizomes thick, long, white. Leaves 20-70 x 2-6 cm, leathery, arching, arising from base in clumps up to 20, sap watery. Flowers small, purplish-blue or white, in many-flowered umbrella-shaped clusters 7 x 5 cm, Dec-Feb. Seeds thin, papery, black.

Flowering:

December, January, February

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2441



Caption: Hutt Valley. Jan 2008.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Agapanthus

Photographer: DoC

Ammophila arenaria

Common Name(s):

marram grass

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. Coastal plant, usually occurs on sand dunes, can occur in inland sites with low fertility.

Features:

Stout rhizomatous perennial grass. Rhizomes tough, creeping long distances in loose sand. Compact tufts formed, 1 m+ high. Leaves to 700 x 3-6 mm, greyish-green, tips sharp, reddish-brown sheaths overlapping; blades tightly rolled (appear cylindrical) in exposed conditions, loosely rolled in shade; densely hairy ribs above, striped below, narrow ligule 25 mm long. Seedhead a dense spike, whitish, to 30 cm long.

Flowering:

November, December, January, February, March

Fruiting:

Unknown

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2521



Caption: Marram, *Ammophila arenaria*

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Warrington, Otago

Photographer: John Barkla

Asparagus scandens

Common Name(s):

climbing asparagus

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. Found in lowland and coastal forest, shrublands, mature broadleaf/podocarp forests especially those of light to moderate shade, streams, coastal areas, shrublands, epiphytic niches, roadsides, gravel pits/quarries, farm hedges, house gardens and wasteland areas. Can infest unmodified and fully intact forest.

Features:

Slender scrambling or climbing perennial. Tuberous roots. Stems 2-4 m long, green and much branched at the top, thin and wiry. Leaves are flat cladodes (resembling miro), usually in threes at each node, 5-15 mm x 1-1.5 mm. Flowers tiny, whitish, Sep-Dec. Round berry, 8 mm diam, green turning orange-red, Oct-Feb, with 1-2 seeds.

Flowering:

September, October,
November, December

Fruiting:

January, May, August
(Timmins & MacKenzie
1995).

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3481



Caption: Coromandel, December
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: Asparagus scandens
Photographer: Richard Hursthouse

Chrysanthemoides monilifera subsp. *monilifera*

Common Name(s):

boneseed, bitou bush

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. mainly coastal areas, coastal cliffs, inshore islands, dry shrublands, shrubland margins, consolidated sand dunes, gumlands, roadsides, quarries, wastelands, exotic plantations and a threat to offshore islands.

Features:

Bushy, semi-woody, much branched shrub or small tree to 2-3 m. Young stems ribbed and woolly, becoming smooth. Leaves alternate, smooth, leathery, entire, 70 x 35 mm, margins irregularly toothed. Bright yellow daisy-like flowers, 25-30 mm diam, Sep-Feb. Fruit an oval green drupe, 6-9 mm, hard with thin fleshy covering, turning black, with very hard seed.

Flowering:

September, October, November, December, January, February

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3703



Caption: Quail Island

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Quail Island

Photographer: John Barkla

Cortaderia selloana

Common Name(s):

pampas grass

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A coastal and lowland plant found between sea level and 800 metres. Plant grows in sites of all levels of fertility from low to high. The plant grows in a wide variety of soils from pumice and coastal sands to heavy clay (Ford 1993). Coloniser of open ground (West, 1996). A plant that occurs in low or disturbed forest, wetlands, grasslands, scrub, cliffs, coastlines, islands, forest margins, riverbanks, shrubland, open areas, roadsides and sand dunes. The plants primary habitat is disturbed ground.

Features:

Large-clump-forming grass to 4 m+. Leaf base smooth or sparsely hairy, no white waxy surface. Leaves with conspicuous midrib which does not continue into leaf base, no secondary veins between midrib and leaf edge. Leaves bluish-green above, dark green below, snap readily when tugged. Dead leaf bases spiral like wood shavings. Flowerhead erect, dense, fluffy, white-pinkish, fading to dirty white, (Jan)-Mar-Jun.

Flowering:

March, April,
May

Fruiting:

April-May (Timmins & MacKenzie
1995).

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3753



Caption: Plimmerton. Jun 2006.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Plimmerton. Jun 2006.

Glabrous leaf base.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

Cotyledon orbiculata var. *orbiculata*

Common Name(s):

pigs ear

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

dry coastal bluffs. Coastal slopes and beaches, often on steep banks, rocky outcrops, cliff faces and bare ledges, sometimes in low scrub and dry depleted grassland (webb et al 1988).

Flowering:

December, January, February, March, April, May, June.

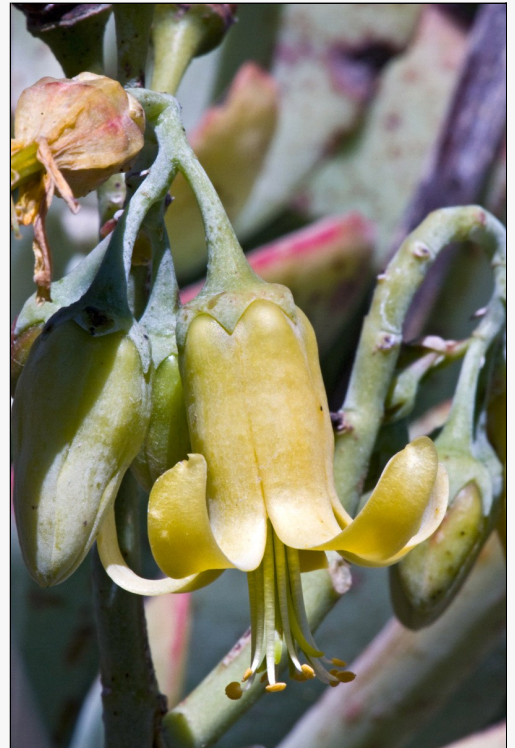
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3735



Caption: Palliser Bay, Kawakawa Rocks. Yellow flowered form.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Palliser Bay, Kawakawa Rocks. Yellow flowered form.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

Crataegus monogyna

Common Name(s):

hawthorn

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A plant of lowland and montane habitats. Plant occurs in sites with low to low/moderate fertility. A plant that grows in low forest, forest margins, scrub, hill country pasture, pasture, disturbed forest, waste places and roadsides.

Features:

Shrub or small tree, up to 10m when mature, armed with axillary spines up to 12mm long, the longest spines associated with short flowering shoots; stems glabrous, smooth and reddish-brown when young but becoming grey when older. Leaves solitary on vigorous vegetative shoots but in fascicles on short shoots; petiole 5~25mm long, greenish, narrowly winged, grooved above; blade approx. deltoid to rhombic, 35~50 x 35~45mm, deeply lobed, glabrous, dark to mid green above, paler below with primary veins obvious; lobes 3~7, ascending, oblong, usually entire in lower half and sparingly and irregularly serrate near the acute apex; stipules of vegetative shoots reniform with prominently toothed margins, those of short shoots smaller and deciduous. Flowers many in flat corymbs subtended by small leafy acute bracts; bracts often larger and toothed on young stems; pedicels 5~11mm long, often bearing scattered, fine white hairs. Sepals greenish, finely pilose at least in lower part; lobes triangular to oblong, subacute, becoming reflexed. Petals broadly ovate to orbicular, 4~8mm diam., rounded to crenulate, spreading, usually white, rarely red-pink. Stamens < petals; filaments white or sometimes pale pink; anthers pink. Style usually 1. Fruit broadly oblong to subglobose, 7~11mm diam., dark red, shining, crowned by deflexed sepals; nutlets usually 1. (- Webb et. al., 1988)

Flowering:

August, September, October

Fruiting:

autumn; May onwards.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3788



Caption: Otago Peninsula

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Otago Peninsula

Photographer: John Barkla

Cytisus scoparius

Common Name(s):

wild broom

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A plant of lowland and montane habitats. Plant occurs in sites with low-moderate-high fertility. The plant normally grows in areas of high rainfall, on acid soils but never on chalks. Plant grows in shrubland, tall tussockland, short tussockland, cliff, bluff and riverbed communities (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). The plant grows in disturbed lowland and montane habits such as pasture, waste ground, riverbeds and poorly grazed areas.

Features:

Much-branched deciduous shrub up to 2m high; twigs glabrous, but sericeous when young, green, more or less 5-angled. Leaves variable, usually glabrous above and sericeous below, and 3-foliolate and petiolate when mature or on older twigs; leaves of younger twigs often 1~2 foliolate and subsessile; young leaves often sericeous above and below but sometimes glabrous; leaflets apetiollate, elliptic to obovate, usually acute, sometimes emarginate, 4~16mm long; terminal leaflet > lateral leaflets. Flowers usually solitary, rarely paired, axillary; pedicels 5~13mm long. Calyx glabrous, bilabiate, about quarter the length of corolla; upper and lower lips entire or shallowly toothed. Corolla usually golden yellow, rarely partly red or tinged mauve, 16~25mm long. Pod black, oblong, many seeded, 15~60mm long with hairy margins; seeds brown or greenish-brown, ellipsoid, compressed, about 3mm long. (- Webb et. al., 1988)

Flowering:

September, October,
November, December

Fruiting:

December-January, later in
cooler areas (Timmins &
MacKenzie 1995).

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3839



Caption: Bi-coloured flowers.
Hutt River. Oct 2012.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Bi-coloured flowers.
Hutt River. Oct 2012.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

Elaeagnus x reflexa

Common Name(s):

Elaeagnus

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A plant of coastal and lowland habitats. The plant grows in sites of moderate to high fertility. The plant spreads from gardens and farms to adjacent trees and shrubs. A plant of scrub and forest margins, also found in secondary forest communities. Low and disturbed forest and forest margins are at risk from the plant. The plant occurs forest margins and coastal areas.

Features:

Vigorous, often scrambling, dense shrub; stems to about 20m long, covered in peltate or stellate scales. Young shoots, petioles and of midrib beneath with brown scales; older branches often spiny. Petiole 5~13mm long. Lamina 4.5~9 x 1.5~4cm, elliptic, soon becoming glabrous above, with silvery scales beneath, usually dotted with and sometimes densely covered in brown scales; margins undulate to almost flat; base rounded; apex obtuse, acute or shortly acuminate. Fascicles few-flowered; flowers fragrant, generally pendulous. Pedicels 3~7mm long, densely covered in brown scales. Calyx 10~13mm long, abruptly constricted above ovary, covered with mostly silvery and few brown scales outside; lobes 2~4mm long, triangular, acutely ribbed at base in bud. Stamens inserted at apex of tube; filaments very short, hidden behind anthers. Style slightly > calyx tube. Fruit 1.5~1.8 x .8~1cm, oblong, pale reddish-orange, with silver and brown scales. Seed 8-ribbed.

Flowering:

March, April, May

Fruiting:

May, September.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3872



Caption: Auckland. Apr 2012.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Auckland. Apr 2012.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

Glaucium flavum

Common Name(s):

Horned poppy

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3963



Caption: *Glaucium flavum*

Photographer: John Sawyer



Caption: *Glaucium flavum*

Photographer: John Sawyer

Lycium ferocissimum

Common Name(s):

boxthorn

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A plant of lowland and coastal habitats. A plant of low fertility sites. The plant occurs in sites with stony ground and gravel, as well as ungrazed areas. A plant that occurs in sand dunes. Other sites that the plant occurs are shrublands, coastal scrub (Porteus 1993) and other coastal area as well as scrub on cliffs, banks and roadsides. A plant of coastal shrublands and disturbed waste places.

Features:

Densely branched evergreen shrub, 1~6m high. Shoots and young leaves with minute glandular scales. Leaves subsessile or shortly petiolate, alternate on young shoots but on mature stems mostly in fascicles on short spurs along the rigid branch spines. Lamina 5~43 x 3~12mm, oblong, linear-oblong or spatulate; base attenuate; apex rounded-truncate. Flowers 1~2 together, on short spurs. Pedicels slender, around 5mm long at flowering, to 2cm long at fruiting. Calyx 4~8mm long, tubular-campanulate; teeth triangular, obtuse to acute. Corolla 10~13mm long; tube broad-cylindric; lobes 4~5mm long, obovate, pale mauve or cream; apex rounded. Filaments hairy at base. Fruit 5~12mm diam., globular or obovoid, scarlet.

Flowering:

July, August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3164



Caption: Near Raglan, west coast, North Island

Photographer: John Sawyer



Caption: *Lycium ferocissimum*

Photographer: John Sawyer

Malva dendromorpha

Common Name(s):

Tree mallow

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. Waste places, cultivated land, Coastal sites.

Features:

Stout biennial herb, usually with a single stem up to 2 m tall. Stems hairy when young, becoming hairless and woody at base when older. Leaves velvety to the touch, with 5-7 lobes, up to 20 cm across. Lilac to purple flowers arranged in clusters at end and along upper parts of the stem. 6-8 seeds per fruit.

Flowering:

August, September, October, November, January, February, March, April, May.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3387



Caption: *Malva dendromorpha*

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Pauatahanui Inlet. Jun 2006.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

Metrosideros excelsa

Common Name(s):

Pohutukawa, New Zealand Christmas tree

Current Threat Status (2012):

Non Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand: Three Kings Islands and North Island from North Cape to about Pukearuhe, (northern Taranaki) in the west and near Mahia Peninsula (in the east). However, exact southern limit is difficult to ascertain as it has been widely planted and there is evidence that old time Maori cultivated the tree in some southerly areas. Found inland around the Rotorua Lakes and at Lake Taupo - though these occurrences could stem from Maori plantings (though the association of other normally coastal species around these lakes argues against this). Now widely planted throughout the rest of New Zealand (especially around Nelson, the Marlborough Sounds, the Kaikoura Coast and on the west coast to about Hokitika).

Habitat:

Coastal forest and on occasion inland around lake margins. Also in the far north occasionally an associate of kauri forest. In some northerly locations it forms forest type in its own right - this forest is dominated by pohutukawa, other associates often include tawapou (*Pouteria costata*), kohekohe (*Dysoxylum spectabile*), puriri (*Vitex lucens*), karaka (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*), and on rodent-free offshore islands the frequent presence of coastal maire (*Nestegis apetala*), and milk tree (*Streblus banksii*) suggests these species too may once have been important in mainland examples of pohutukawa forest.

Features*:

Tree up to 20 m tall with canopy spread of 10-50m. Specimens typically multi-trunked from base, trunks up to 2 m diameter, branches spreading, and often arching, sometimes looping over ground, and/or bearing "brooms" of aerial adventitious roots. Branchlets numerous, twiggy and long-persistent. Bark firm, persistent and difficult to detach, often deeply furrowed, grey to grey-brown, somewhat corky. Young branchlets tomentose, being covered in fine, deciduous, greyish-white hairs. Leaves of all but water shoots leathery, 25-120 × 25-60 mm, elliptic, oblong, rarely lanceolate, apex acute or obtuse, dark olive-green, undersides thickly clad in white tomentum, adaxial surface at first distinctly tomentose but hairs shedding with leaf maturation. Flowers borne on stout, tomentose pedicels crimson, orange, pink, yellow (or very rarely white). Hypanthium obconic, calyx lobes triangular (deltoid).

Flowering:

(August-) November-December (-March)

Fruiting:

(January-) March-April (-May)

Threats:

Like all New Zealand tree *Metrosideros*, pohutukawa is most at risk from possum (*Trichosurus vulpecula*) browse. These can seriously damage and even kill trees. Often where their browsing occurs within sites of unrestricted stock and vehicle access, pohutukawa forest is in danger of becoming locally extinct. It does remain common over large parts of its range, a situation being greatly improved by the efforts of people encouraged by the national coordination of Project Crimson - a non profit organisation set up to protect, enhance and/or establish pohutukawa forest, as well as promote the species use, and its conservation.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by: P.J. de Lange (4 January 2004). Description adapted from Allan (1961).

References and further reading:

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Vol. I. Wellington, Government Printer.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=975



Caption: Wellington

Photographer: John Sawyer



Caption: *Metrosideros excelsa*

Photographer: Wayne Bennett

Pennisetum clandestinum

Common Name(s):

kikuyu grass

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A coastal plant of high fertile sites (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). A plant that prefers warm, moist and fertile soils, but is drought resistant (Department of Conservation 1996). A plant of sand dunes (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). A plant that is a common dominant pasture grass (Department of Conservation 1996). A plant that is invasive in coastal areas (Department of Conservation 1996).

Features:

Creeping, perennial, hairy, mat-forming grass. Stolons very long, climbing supported occ to 2+ m, rooting frequently. Rhizomes long. Leaves alternate, 5-40 x 3-9 cm, bright green to yellow-green, soft and drooping, sparsely hairy above and below, blades folded, ligule a fringe of hairs, auricle missing. Sheath pale green to white, with soft 2-4 mm hairs. Seedhead of 2-3 tiny spikelets in upper leaf sheaths, wispy anthers and stigmas

Flowering:

flowers are very small and reduced.

References and further reading:

Esler, A.E. 1998. The clandestine flowering of Kikuyu grass. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal*, 53: 62-64.

Little, C. 1999. Kikuyu a further note. *Auckland Botanical Society Journal*, 54: 13

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3023



Caption: *Pennisetum clandestinum*

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: *Pennisetum clandestinum*

Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth

Pittosporum crassifolium

Common Name(s):

Karo

Current Threat Status (2012):

Not Threatened

Distribution:

Endemic. New Zealand, Three Kings, Great Barrier and North Island. In the North indigenous from Te Pahi south to about White Cliffs, and East Cape. Widely naturalised further south to Wellington. Naturalised in the South, Stewart and Chatham Islands. Also naturalised on Norfolk Island, and in Hawaii.

Habitat:

Coastal and offshore islands. Favours steep slopes, cliff faces, boulder beaches, rock stacks and the margins of petrel burrowed land. Sometimes forms major canopy dominant on offshore islands, and on occasion can be a significant component of dune forest. Often an urban weed because its fruits/seeds are avidly taken by indigenous and exotic birds and dispersed widely.

Features*:

Gynodioecious shrubs to small trees 1-10 m tall. Trunk stout, grey-black, often distinctly lenticillate. Branches and branchlets erect, dark grey-black or brown, immature branchlets densely invested in grey-white or white tomentum, this maturing black. Leaves alternate, usually densely crowded toward branch and branchlet apices. Petioles 4-14 x 1-3 mm, grey-white to grey-black tomentose. Leaves 30-100 x 10-30 mm, obovate to oblanceolate, apices obtuse to acute, base attenuate, margins entire, both surfaces densely white, grey-white or brown tomentose when young, soon glabrate above but remain densely covered in dirty white or grey-white, appressed tomentum beneath, very coriaceous, margins thickened and often strongly revolute, surfaces often blistered with insect galls. Flowers in terminal 1-10-flowered fascicles; pedicels 6-50 mm, accrescent in fruit, tomentose, subtended by a whorl of leaves and numerous, 3-15 mm long, caducous, brown-tomentose, ciliate bud scales. Sepals 7-11 x 1.5-3 mm, oblong to linear-lanceolate, acute, greyish-white, dirty white or brown tomentose on outer surfaces, inner surface only toward the middle, margins ciliate. Petals 10-16 x 3-5 mm, oblanceolate to lanceolate, subacute, free to base, recurved at apices, dark red, purple, yellow, pink or white; stamens 5-9 mm long, anthers 1-3 x 0.5-1.5 mm, sagittiform to elliptic-oblong. Ovary 3-6 x 2-5 mm, white or grey-white tomentose; style 3-2.5 mm long, stigma capitate or 3-lobed truncate. Capsules woody, 10-30 x 10-30 mm, (2-)3(-4)-valved, woody, trigonous, sometimes 2-4-lobed

Flowering:

August - October

Fruiting:

September - August (Old fruits persist on trees)

Threats:

Not Threatened. However, the fruits are eaten by rats, and on rodent infested offshore islands this species rarely regenerates.

*Attribution:

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 30 August 2006. Description adapted from Cooper (1956).

References and further reading:

Cooper, R.C. 1956: The Australian and New Zealand species of *Pittosporum*. *Annals of the Missouri Botanical Garden* 43: 87-188

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=1133



Caption: Masterton

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Meola Reef, Westmere, Auckland

Photographer: John Sawyer

Rubus fruticosus agg.

Common Name(s):

blackberry

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A plant of coastal and lowland habitats. A plant that grows where there has been settlement or significant disturbance of native flora (Webb et. al. 1988). Usually prevalent on lightly grazed areas and waste land in moist situations especially higher rainfall areas. A plant that does not compete successfully with well managed good pasture. A plant of scrub and forest margins, shrubland, fernland, riverbeds and wetlands (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). A plant of open areas, wasteland, roadsides, hedgerows, farmland, scrub, forest margins and clearings, riverbeds, gardens, embankments and swamps (Webb et. al. 1988). Areas at risk from the plant are pasture, exotic forests, open areas, roadsides, sand dunes, pasture, streambanks. A plant of roadsides, streambanks, waste areas, pastures, orchards and forestry.

Features:

Scrambling shrub, suckering, usu. semi-erect with stems arching and entangling, sometimes semi-prostrate or almost erect; stems usu. angled, flat to concave or furrowed between angles, rarely terete, sometimes striate, glabrous to moderately hairy, esp. on young growth, often with subsessile glands; sometimes pruinose, with stalked glands, green to purplish, red or flecked; armature of prickles, and sometimes also pricklets or acicles. Leaves palmate with 5 leaflets; petioles and petiolules usu. pilose to tomentose and prickly; leaflets glabrous to pilose on upper surface, usu. pilose or tomentose on lower surface, dentate to 1~2-serrate or sometimes obscurely lobed or deeply 1~2-pinnatisect; terminal leaflets usu. obovate or ovate, sometimes elliptic, oblong, orbicular or deltoid, 30~160 x 15~110mm, petiolulate; stipules usu. linear or linear-lanceolate, sometimes lanceolate to elliptic. Infl. a cylindric to pyramidal, usu. many-flowered panicle, often leafy at least in lower part, sometimes flowers 1~few, with stalked glands. Flowers 15~60mm diam. Sepals usu. lanceolate to ovate or ovate-triangular, acute and apiculate to acuminate or long-attenuate and sometimes leafy at tip, pilose to tomentose, sometimes with pricklets or stalked glands, usu. deflexed or rarely erect at fruiting. Petals rounded to notched, flat or crinkled, white to deep pink. Stamen filaments white or pink. Fruit of black, shiny or rarely pruinose drupelets, ovoid, oblong or cylindric, 10~15mm long. (-Webb et. al., 1988)

Flowering:

November, December, January, February, March, (May)

Fruiting:

November-May

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2973



Caption: Stokes Valley. Dec 2001.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Taita Gorge, Hutt River.

Mar 2004.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

Senecio glastifolius

Common Name(s):

Holly-leaved senecio

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial.

Features:

An erect, hairless perennial herb, becoming distinctly woody towards its base; to 1 m tall. Leaves are oblong or narrow elliptic in shape, with serrated edges and often coarse toothed at base, 3-15 cm long x 1-2.5cm wide 12 -20 purple/pink daisy-like florets with yellow centres, 12-25 mm long. Flowers Sept-Nov.

Flowering:

September, October, November

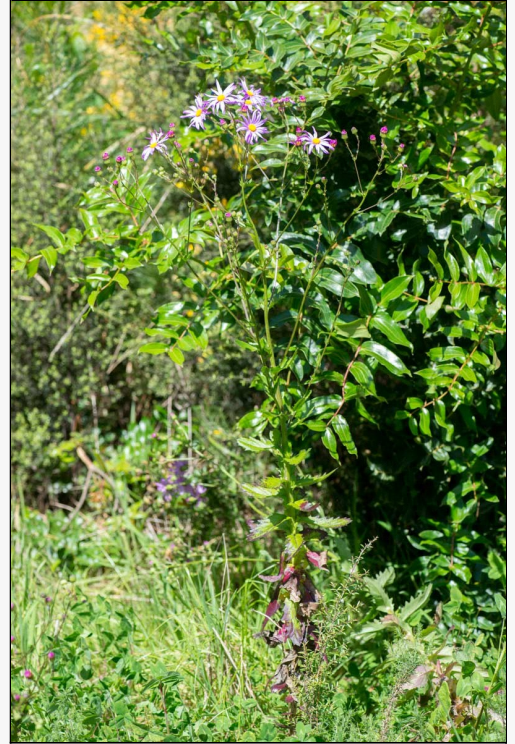
For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2733



Caption: Te Wherowhero Lagoon, Gisborne

Photographer: John Sawyer



Caption: Eastern Hutt hills.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

Tradescantia fluminensis

Common Name(s):

wandering Jew

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A lowland plant of sites with moderate fertility. Can rapidly invade light gaps but prefers cool moist and shaded conditions. Thrives in forest, scrub and forest margins, cliffs, bluffs, and riverbed communities.

Features:

Trailing perennial with succulent stems, rooting readily at nodes. Forms a carpet up to 50cm thick. Opposite leaves 3-6 cm long, ovate-elliptic, shining and loosely clasping the stem. Leaves are typically dark green, but can have longitudinal stripes and/or purplish bases, these forms typically revert to green. The flowers are in clusters, are star-shaped and have 3 delicate white petals that are 10mm long. Seed not seen in NZ.

Flowering:

December, January

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2558



Caption: Upper Hutt. Dec 2001.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Caption: Stokes Valley. Dec 2001.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe

Ulex europaeus

Common Name(s):

gorse

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A plant of coastal and lowland habitats. The plant occurs in sites with low - low/moderate fertility. It is common in disturbed areas and can tolerate a wide range of conditions and soil types allowing it to establish in most areas. It is more abundant in waste places, riverbeds and poorer land than it is in developed and fertile land. It occurs in scrub and forest margin, shrubland, fernland and riverbed communities and grassland, shrubland, forest margins, coastal habitats and waste places. It occurs in rough foothills and less-intensively farmed areas and is often abundant in disturbed lowland and lower montane places. It is a plant that often aggressively invades rough pasture.

Features:

Shrub up to 2m high; main stems erect or spreading, densely branched in younger parts but eventually bare at base; young twigs and spines somewhat glaucous; hairs usu. grey. Leaves of seedlings not spinous but with 3 hairy leaflets; spines branched; terminal and lateral spines rigid, deeply furrowed, 15~30mm long; secondary spines subtending lateral up to 12mm long. Flowers solitary; bracteoles acute to rounded, 1.5~3mm wide. Calyx greenish-yellow, about 2/3~3/4 length of corolla, with generally patent hairs; calyx teeth connivent. Corolla clear yellow or golden yellow, 13~20mm long; wings > keel. Pod villous, turning dark brown to black, 13~25mm long; seeds smooth and rounded, brown or greenish-brown, shiny, few per pod. (Webb et. al., 1988).

Flowering:

(January) May, June, July, August, September, October, November (December)

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2610



Caption: Mt Frith, Rimuataka Hill

Photographer: John Sawyer



Caption: Mt Frith, Riutaka Hill

Photographer: John Sawyer

Vinca major

Common Name(s):

periwinkle

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

A widespread escape from cultivation naturalised in all districts. Waste places, particularly in the shade of trees by riverbanks, roadsides, cemeteries and around gardens.

Features:

Stems glabrous, long and partly trailing or running and rooting at nodes, with terminal part often ascending, forming dense mats often covering many square metres. Petiole 7~20mm long; margins hirsute. Lamina 4~10 x 2.5~7cm, ovate, usually dark glossy green above, rarely variegated white and green; midrib hairy above; margins ciliate; base mostly rounded or subcordate, sometimes truncate or broad-cuneate; apex obtuse or acute, pedicels 2.5~4cm long, slender. Calyx .9~1.7cm long; lobes linear-subulate, ciliate, glandular towards base, Corolla tube approx. 1.5cm long; limb 3.5~5cm diam., mauvish-blue; lobes obliquely obovate; apex truncate or obtuse. Anthers slightly wider than long. Follicles 3.5~5cm long, the apical part very narrow and pointed, constricted between seeds. Seeds 7~8mm long, oblong, strongly corrugated; margins inrolled. (Webb et. al., 1988) The plant has endless trailing and twining stems (Hilgendorf 1926), and glossy green leaves and beautiful pale blue salver-shaped flowers 2 -3 cm across (Hilgendorf 1926). A plant that forms a dense mat of long running, hairless stems with roots at the nodes (Department of Conservation 1996). The opposite leaves are oval, usually around 4 cm long, usually a dark glossy green and rarely variegated white and green (Department of Conservation 1996). The flowers are tubular and flat-lobed at the mouth to 5cm in diameter and are a mauvish blue (Department of Conservation 1996).

Flowering:

January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=2637



Caption: Otago Peninsula

Photographer: John Barkla



Caption: Waihopo, Far North

Photographer: John Sawyer