

Agapanthus praecox subsp. orientalis

COMMON NAME

agapanthus, lily of the Nile

FAMILY

Alliaceae

AUTHORITY

Agapanthus praecox subsp. orientalis (F.M.Leight.) F.M.Leight.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

NVS CODE

AGAPSO

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily identified by the fleshy, strap-like green leaf and large blue or white flowers.

FLOWERING

December, January, February

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, White

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial.

YEAR NATURALISED

1952

ORIGIN

South Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

The plant can survive mowing, grazing, insects and sprays.



Agapanthus. Photographer: Department of Conservation, Licence: Public domain.



Agapanthus praecox. Photographer: Richard Hursthouse, Licence: CC BY.

ETYMOLOGY

agapanthus: From the Greek agape, meaning 'love', and anthos, meaning 'flower', translating broadly as the flower of love.

orientalis: From the Latin orientale, meaning 'eastern' but sometimes also translated as 'from the Orient'.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/agapanthus-praecox-subsp-orientalis/>