

Pinus patula

COMMON NAME

Mexican weeping pine

FAMILY

Pinaceae

AUTHORITY

Pinus patula Schltdl. & Cham.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

NVS CODE

PINPAT

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Aggressively colonises open forest canopy.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small or medium tree, reaching to 30 m, with wide spreading branches.

Needles up to 30 cm, thin, flexible, held in bundles of three, which droop down below the branches. **Bark** red-brown, peeling readily to reveal bright orange-brown underbark. **Terminal shoots** on the branches turn upright, and are surrounded by male cones. **Female cones** change from pink to brown as they mature, reaching about 8 cm long, often slightly curved and elongated.

SIMILAR TAXA

This species is easily distinguished from all other 2–3 needled pines wild in New Z by the very slender, pendulous, grass-green needles and the prominently erect buds which are often at right angles to the shoot. (Webb et al 1988).

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial; reproduces by wind dispersed seed.

YEAR NATURALISED

1957

ORIGIN

S. Mexico

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Forestry

ETYMOLOGY

patula: Spreading

CONIFER IDENTIFICATION

The National Wilding Conifer Control Programme team at Biosecurity New Zealand, a branch of Ministry for Primary Industries, has produced this wilding conifer [quick ID guide](#).



Pinus patula. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Pinus patula. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ. 1988. Flora of New Zealand, Volume IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Christchurch, NZ. 1365 p.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pinus-patula/>