

# Abutilon darwinii

## COMMON NAME

Chinese lantern

## FAMILY

Malvaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Abutilon darwinii* Hook.f. × *A. pictum*

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## FEATURES

Perennial shrub to c. 3m high. sometimes suckering to form thickets. Stems sparsely hairy with short stellate hairs and scattered short simple hairs, becoming more or less glabrous. Leaves densely clothed in fine stellate hairs below, more or less glabrous to moderately hairy with simple and stellate hairs above, lighter green below, broadly ovate to suborbicular, cordate at base, usually 3-(5) lobed, to 1/4 -1/2 radius, crenate or serrate 6-15-(18)cm long; petioles 2-20 cm long; stipules narrow-oblong to lanceolate, 6-12 mm long, deciduous. Flowers axillary, usually solitary or sometimes 2-3 in fascicles; fruiting pedicels up to 20 cm long; calyx shallowly campanulate; calyx teeth much greater than tube, triangular, acuminate, densely clothed in stellate hairs, more or less erect at fruiting, petals yellow to orange or scarlet, often with darker veins, 30-60 mm long. Cells c. 10 per fruit, covered in stellate hairs, and with longer stellate hairs along the ridged back; dorsal apical angle awnless. Seeds brown, hairy, partivulvular on the back c. 3mm diameter (Webb et al 1988)

## SIMILAR TAXA

This species can be distinguished from other *Abutilon* by the lobed leaves.

## FLOWERING

January, February, March, April

## FLOWER COLOURS

Orange, Yellow

## YEAR NATURALISED

1981

## ORIGIN

Cultivated hybrid

## ETYMOLOGY

**abutilon:** From the Arabic word for a mallow-like plant.



*Abutilon darwinii* Hook.f. × *A. pictum*.  
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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**Reason For Introduction**

Ornamental

**Life Cycle Comments**

Perennial.

**Seed**

Approximately 10 seeds per fruit (Webb et al 1988)

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/abutilon-darwinii/>