

Allium triquetrum

COMMON NAME

onion weed

FAMILY

Alliaceae

AUTHORITY

Allium triquetrum L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

NVS CODE

ALLTRI

HABITAT

Disturbed forest and shrubland, streamsides, herbfields, bare land. Especially after spraying or other clearance to bare land.

FEATURES

Perennial herb to about 60 cm, strong garlic smell. Bulbs to 10-15 mm diameter, with offset bulbs. Leaves 2-5, linear, fleshy, keeled, 20-60 cm long, with white papery sheaths. The leaves usually die back in late spring. Flower stalk is three-sided, 20-60 cm high, fleshy and soft, sheathed by leaves at the base. Flowers are bell-shaped, 10-15 mm long, 5 petalled, white with green stripe on the petals, on drooping stalks. Seed capsules 7 mm diameter containing small black seeds.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be separated from other species in the *Allium* genus by the sharply triangular stems. *Leucojum aestivum* and *Nothoscordum inodorum* are also similar but lack the garlic odour.

FLOWERING

October, November

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

YEAR NATURALISED

1899

ORIGIN

South West Europe, North Africa

ETYMOLOGY

allium: Possibly from the Latin word for garlic or the Celtic word all 'pungent' or 'burning'



Onion weed. Photographer: John Barkla



Flowers of onion weed. Photographer: John Barkla

Reason For Introduction

Agricultural

Life Cycle Comments

Perennial. Tends to die back in late spring.

Reproduction

Reproduces by seed and vegetative reproduction

Seed

Many seeds are produced.

Dispersal

Seeds are wind dispersed. Bulbs can be dispersed by soil movement.

Tolerances

Very shade tolerant.

Foraging for onion weed

Click on the Radio New Zealand National logo to listen to This Way Up. Simon Morton interviews Johanna Knox about foraging for onion weed (duration: 12'34")

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/allium-triquetrum/>