

Alseuosmia macrophylla

COMMON NAMES

toropapa, karapapa

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Glossy shrub with strong-smelling, obvious, red, tubular drooping flowers. Leaves glossy, wavy.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North Island throughout but absent from the central volcanic plateau where it is replaced by *A. turneri*. South Island, North-West Nelson only

THREATS

Although not considered nationally threatened this species is often heavily browsed by ungulates and possums, and rarely sets much viable seed, except where indigenous nectar feeding birds are common - such as on rodent-free offshore islands

GENUS

Alseuosmia

FAMILY

Alseosmiaceae

AUTHORITY

Alseuosmia macrophylla A.Cunn.

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

Yes

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Fleshy berries dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Can be grown from semi-hardwood cuttings though these strike with varying degrees of success. Seed is often hard to germinate. Layers readily. Prefers a semi-shaded site in a cool place with permanently damp soil. Slow growing and prone to sudden collapse during dry spells.



Kauaeranga Valley. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Waiwhakaiho Scenic Reserve, New Plymouth. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 14/02/2015, Licence: CC BY.

PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for October 2018](#) for the full story.

ETYMOLOGY

alseuosmia: Perfume grove

macrophylla: Big leaf

NVS CODE

ALSMAC

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the [“Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland”](#) Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 2009 Vol. 11 No. 4 pp. 285-309

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/alseuosmia-macrophylla/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026