

# Alseuosmia quercifolia

## COMMON NAMES

oak-leaved toropapa, 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

Shrub with glossy, variable lobed leaves (or sometime long and thin) that are pale beneath and on reddish twigs. Flowers pinkish, tubular, drooping, sweet-smelling, clustered at base of leaves. Fruit small, red, fleshy.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Red/Pink

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. New Zealand: North Island (from Te Pahi to near Awakino in the west, and in the east present to about Thames and the lower Hauraki Plains, with a few old records from East Cape).

## THREATS

Not Threatened but often uncommon and sparse in the southern part of its range

## GENUS

Alseuosmia

## FAMILY

Alseuosmiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Alseuosmia quercifolia* A.Cunn.

## SYNONYMS

*Alseuosmia ilex* A.Cunn, *A. xquercifolia* 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

Very easy from cuttings, slow growing but easy to maintain if kept in pots, but usually tricky to plant out. Does best planted in partial shade in rich soil with a damp root run. However often prone to sudden collapse.



Waharau Park, Hunua Range, October.

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



Waharau Park, Hunua Range, October.

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## PLANT OF THE MONTH

This plant has been featured as a Plant of the Month – see [Trilepidea: NZPCN newsletter for August 2014](#) for the full story.

## ETYMOLOGY

**alseuosmia:** Perfume grove

**quercifolia:** Oak leaved

## NVS CODE

ALSQUE

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 18

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DP

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

## REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally At Risk – Regionally Naturally Uncommon | Qualifiers: CD, DPR, DPS, DPT, INC 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 MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ppees.2009.06.001>.

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

28 May 2026