Aristea ecklonii

COMMON NAME
aristea

FAMILY
Iridaceae

AUTHORITY
Aristea ecklonii Baker

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Herbs - Monocots

NVS CODE
ARIECK

HABITAT
Shrubland, open and disturbed forest (esp Kauri) herbfields, bush margins, gumland, coastline, rocky and bare land, especially in warm areas.

FEATURES
Evergreen, iris-like perennial to 45 cm tall. Rhizomes woody, leaves linear, to 40 x 1 cm, sword-shaped, folded in reddish-purple-based fans, mostly basal but few on the stem. Stem flattened, slightly winged. Flowers 2 cm diameter, deep blue, in many clusters of 5-7 loose panicles, very fragile, opening briefly in bright sunlight. Seed capsule 2 cm long, grooved; seeds flat, dark red-brown.

SIMILAR TAXA
The small 3-petalled blue flowers on this iris-like plant are quite distinctive.

FLOWERING
October

FLOWER COLOURS
Blue

YEAR NATURALISED
1975

ORIGIN
trop & S Africa

Reason For Introduction
Accidental

Life Cycle Comments
Perennial

Reproduction
Spreads by seed.

Dispersal
People, wind, water.

MORE INFORMATION