

Carpobrotus edulis

COMMON NAMES

ice plant

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Mat-forming trailing perennial herb. Stems to about 6 m long, occasionally rooting, subwoody at base. Leaves sharply 3-angled. Flowers 8-10 cm diameter, petals pale yellow turning pink with age.

SIMILAR TAXA

Very similar to *C. chilensis* but can be distinguished when flowering by its yellow rather than purple petals, fading to dull pink.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Coastal

GENUS

Carpobrotus

FAMILY

Aizoaceae

AUTHORITY

Carpobrotus edulis (L.) N.E.Brown

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Ornamental.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October, November, December, January, February

YEAR NATURALISED

1883

ORIGIN

S. Africa

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial.



Carpobrotus edulis. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Paraparaumu Beach. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 23/08/2006, Licence: CC BY.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

carpobrotus: From the Greek karpos 'fruit' and brotus 'edible', the fruits of some species being edible.

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

NVS CODE

CAREDU

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/carpobrotus-edulis/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026