

Carpobrotus edulis

COMMON NAME

ice plant

FAMILY

Aizoaceae

AUTHORITY

Carpobrotus edulis (L.) N.E.Brown

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

CAREDU

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Coastal

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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

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.

FLOWERING

October, November, December, January, February

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Yellow

YEAR NATURALISED

1883

ORIGIN

S. Africa

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](#).



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



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

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental.

LIFE CYCLE COMMENTS

Perennial.

MORE INFORMATION

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