

# Centaurea calcitrapa

## COMMON NAME

star thistle

## FAMILY

Asteraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Centaurea calcitrapa* L.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

## FLOWERING

November, December, January, February, March, April, (May)

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

## FRUITING

november, december, january, february, march, april, may

## YEAR NATURALISED

1855

## ORIGIN

Mediterranean

## ETYMOLOGY

**centaurea:** From the classical name kentaurion (Greek) or centaureum (Latin) in the fables of ancient Greece, which describe the plant healing the foot of Chiron, a centaur famed for his knowledge of medicine and astronomy.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/centaurea-calcitrapa/>



Te Mata Peak. Photographer: Peter de Lange