

Centaurea melitensis

COMMON NAMES

Malta thistle

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

GENUS

Centaurea

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Centaurea melitensis L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1891

ORIGIN

S. Europe

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-melitensis/>

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25 May 2026

