

Cestrum elegans

COMMON NAMES

red cestrum

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub 2-4 high; shoots and petioles densely covered in purplish hairs. Petiole to 2cm long. Lamina 4-10x1.5-5cm (to at least 16 x 7 cm on vegetative shoots), ovate, elliptic or lanceolate, hairy, densely so beneath; base cuneate to rounded; apex acute or short-acuminate. Infl. paniculate, dense; branches purple, hairy; fls subsessile to shortly pedicellate, scentless. Calyx c. 7mm long, purple, usually glabrous outside; teeth 1-4mm long, triangular, acute or short-acuminate, +/- ciliate. Corolla 1.8-2.5 cm long, rosy magenta to deep crimson; tube funnelform with narrow-cylindric base and constricted apex, glabrous, shining; lobes 1-3mm long, +/- hairy outside, glabrous inside, short-acuminate. Fr. apparently uncommon, to 2x1.5cm, obovoid, glossy crimson. (Webb.et.al.1988)

SIMILAR TAXA

Corolla tube glabrose outside, rosy magenta or deep rose.

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

GENUS

Cestrum

FAMILY

Solanaceae

AUTHORITY

Cestrum elegans (Brongn.) Schltldl.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December

YEAR NATURALISED

1958

ORIGIN

Mexico



Hills above Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt.
Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken:
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REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial.

ETYMOLOGY

elegans: Elegant

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](#).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cestrum-elegans/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026