

Chamaecytisus palmensis

COMMON NAMES

tree lucerne

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Large shrub or small tree to about 5 m tall. Leaves three-foliolate, each leaflet up to 40 mm long, finely downy when young but becoming glabrous at full size. White flowers produced in profusion in clusters of 3-8. Seed pod up to 60 mm long, tomentose but more or less glabrous when mature containing many shiny black seeds each about 5mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Several other *Chamaecytisus* species are cultivated in NZ. The most similar is *C. proliferus* but this species has villous leaf undersides. *C. purpureus* has pink flowers, and *C. supinus* has yellow flowers.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Dry places, river beds, coastal sites, hillsides.

GENUS

Chamaecytisus

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Chamaecytisus palmensis (Christ) F.A.Bisby & K.W.Nicholls

SYNONYMS

Chamaecytisus prolifer (L.f.) Link

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

May, June, July, August, September, October

YEAR NATURALISED

1919

ORIGIN

La Plama, Canary Is

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural



Hutt River Trail north of Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 07/06/2006, Licence: CC BY.



Hutt River Trail north of Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 07/06/2006, Licence: CC BY.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Reproduces by seed, many thousands of tiny seeds are produced. Dispersed by water and moving gravel.

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

CHAPAL

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/chamaecytisus-palmensis/>

PDF DATE

05 June 2026