

Cirsium palustre

COMMON NAMES

marsh thistle

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Prickly thistle with cobwebby hairs over most parts, small magenta flowerheads in clusters of up to 10 at the tip of a thin ± leafless prickly flower stem, up to 1.5 m tall, easy to break.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Fibrous rooted biennial. Stems not branched, or branched above, with soft scattered multicellular and fine cobwebby hairs, (20)-80-150-(200) cm tall, ribbed, with coarsely spiny wings between leaf bases; branches slender. Leaves oblanceolate to narrowly elliptic, shallowly to deeply pinnatifid, green above, paler beneath, (5)-10-25-(35) X (1.5)-3-8-(15) cm, with sparse soft multicellular hairs above and beneath, often also with sparse to dense cobwebby tomentum beneath; Leaf lobes narrowly deltoid to linear; prickles pale, 2-10 mm long; uppermost leaves becoming smaller. Capitula cylindric to narrowly ovoid at flowering, erect, 1.2-1.5 X 1 cm, in clusters of up to 10; peduncles 0-1 cm long. Outer involucre bracts linear, ciliate; apex acute, not spinous, suberect. Corolla magenta, 11-12 mm long; lobes 3.5-4-(5) mm long. Style slightly exserted beyond corolla lobes. Achenes pale, narrowly obovoid, 3-3.5 X c. 1 mm; pappus 8-12 mm long; cilia on pappus bristles 1-2 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

No other thistle has the combination of magenta flowerheads and slender, winged, brittle stems.

DISTRIBUTION

Scattered throughout both islands, absent from drier areas, common in Westland

HABITAT

Wet pasture and swampy waste places.

GENUS

Cirsium

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Cirsium palustre (L.) Scop.



Progress Valley, Catlins (leaf detail).
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Mangatainoka River, Wairarapa. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 02/01/2008, Licence: CC BY.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November - to February

FRUITING

November-March-(May)

YEAR NATURALISED

1911

ORIGIN

Eurasia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Unknown, seed or soil contaminant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Can be controlled manually, or herbicidally depending on situation.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Biennial. Seed dispersed by wind or contaminated machinery.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

cirsium: A kind of thistle

palustre: From the Latin palus 'swamp', meaning growing in swamps

NVS CODE

CIRPAL

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. (1988). Flora of New Zealand Volume 4: Naturalised pteridophytes, gymnosperms, dicotyledons. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Webb et al., (1988).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cirsium-palustre/>

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