

Cirsium vulgare

COMMON NAME

Scotch thistle

FAMILY

Asteraceae

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Dicotyledonous Herbs - Composites

NVS CODE

CIRVUL

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not assessed

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Relatively open conditions are required for germination and establishment (West, 1996). Wasteland, roadsides, pastures, gardens, cultivated land, disturbed forest (Webb et al., 1988). Track edges, slips, barer ridges, under light gaps in the forest (West, 1996).

FEATURES

Taprooted biennial 50-150cm tall; stems branched and covered in fine cobweb-like hairs; prickles pale 4-10mm long; purple flowers 28-33mm long (Webb et al., 1988). The flowers are clustered at the end of the stem and the numerous wind-dispersed seeds (West, 1996).

FLOWERING

November, December, January, February, March

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, Violet/Purple

YEAR NATURALISED

1867

ORIGIN

Eurasia, N. Africa

ETYMOLOGY

cirsium: A kind of thistle

Reason For Introduction

Accidental

Life Cycle Comments

Biennial. A rosette of leaves is formed in the first year of growth and a flower-bearing stem is formed in the second year (West, 1996).

Dispersal

Wind (West, 1996).

MORE INFORMATION

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



Cirsium vulgare. Photographer: John Barkla



Mount Dick, Wairarapa. Jan 2007.

Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe