Citrus ×sinensis

COMMON NAMES
orange

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS
White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Tree to about 10 m with rounded crown. Spines on main trunk and branches. Entire or slightly crenulate leaves to 15 x 7 cm on petioles to 2.5 cm. White flowers held in small bunches. Fruit ripening to 5-7 cm diameter, bright orange peel dotted with oil glands.



Citrus sinensis. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



A close up of Citrus sinensis flower. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

SIMILAR TAXA
Many cultivars of oranges are cultivated as well as several other species. Presence of thorns, round fruit with bright orange smooth peel are characteristic of C. sinensis.

HABITAT
Terrestrial.

GENUS
Citrus

FAMILY
Rutaceae

AUTHORITY
Citrus ×sinensis (L.) Osbeck

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

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

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

YEAR NATURALISED
1983

ORIGIN
S. China

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Agricultural

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Reproduces by seed. Prolific fruit and seed are produced in warmer parts of New Zealand.

MORE INFORMATION

https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/citrus-sinensis/

PDF DATE

27 May 2026