Cornus capitata

COMMON NAME
Strawberry dogwood

SYNONYMS
Dendrobenthamia capitata

FAMILY
Cornaceae

AUTHORITY
Cornus capitata Wall. ex Roxb.

FLORA CATEGORY
Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

HABITAT
Terrestrial.

FEATURES
Small evergreen tree to about 6 m high. Stems hairy when young, becoming glabrous. Leaves opposite, to about 10 cm long on short petiole. Numerous pale yellow flowers. Fruit almost round 2-4 cm diameter, ripening to red.

SIMILAR TAXA
Is often mistaken for Arbutus unedo (strawberry tree) but is easily distinguished as C. capitata has opposite leaves lacking teeth, and the fruit is not spiky.

FLOWERING
December, January

FLOWER COLOURS
Yellow

FRUITING
March, April

YEAR NATURALISED
1922

ORIGIN
Himalayas to W. China

ETYMOLOGY
capitata: From the Latin capitus ‘head’, with a knob-like head or tip

Reason For Introduction
Ornamental

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION
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MORE INFORMATION