

Crassula arborescens subsp. arborescens

COMMON NAMES

tree crassula

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

White

SIMILAR TAXA

There are two subspecies - *Crassula arborescens* subsp. *arborescens* and subsp. *undulatifolia*. The latter has elliptic, undulate, and erect leaves. It may also be mistaken for *Crassula ovata* but can be distinguished by the waxy bloom on the almost spherical leaves of *Crassula arborescens* subsp. *arborescens*.

GENUS

Crassula

FAMILY

Crassulaceae

AUTHORITY

Crassula arborescens (Mill.) Willd. subsp. *arborescens*

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Drought tolerant. Will tolerate cold once established but not heavy frost or snow.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

2005

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

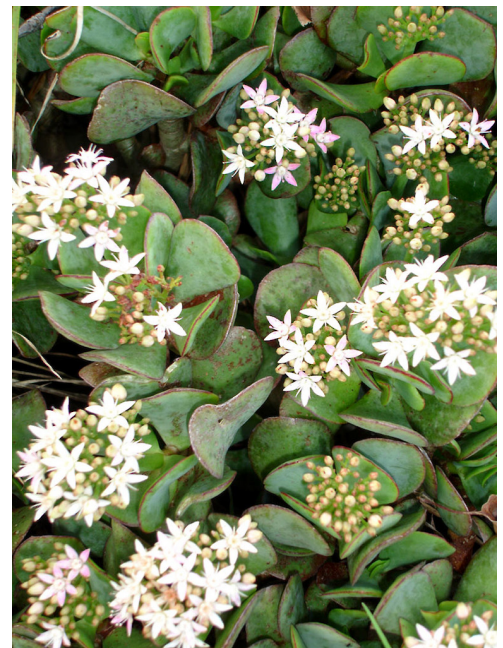
Horticultural

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial shrub. Reproduction is mainly vegetative from leaves which form plantlets and discarded pieces of stem which root freely. Very slow growing. It may be possible seed is formed in New Zealand, these are small and long-lived. Dispersed through disarticulation of leaves and stems, mainly accidental (the first record originated from a car crash!) but possibly deliberate. In New Zealand it is very slow growing.



Crassula arborescens flowering wild plant, Morningside, Auckland, July 2005.
Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Crassula arborescens subsp. *arborescens*.
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ETYMOLOGY

crassula: From the Latin crassus 'thick', meaning 'rather thick'

arborescens: Becoming a tree

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/crassula-arborescens-subsp-arborescens/>

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27 May 2026