

Crassula ovata

COMMON NAMES

jade plant

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A large well-branched, compact, rounded, evergreen shrub 1-3 m tall with glossy, dark grey-green, oval, succulent leaves and rounded heads of pink flowers in winter-spring. The stem is stout and gnarled and gives the impression of great age, and its branches are also short and stubby but well-proportioned. Branches are succulent, grey-green in colour. In older specimens the bark peels in horizontal brownish strips. Leaves are 30-90 mm long and 18-40 mm wide, egg-shaped to elliptic, often with a red margin and a somewhat pointed end; in opposite pairs, the one pair arranged at right angles to the next, and they are clustered towards the ends of the branches. The bush is covered in masses of sweetly scented, pretty pale-pink, star-shaped flowers in tight rounded bunches during the winter. The flowers develop into small capsules and each holds many tiny seeds.

SIMILAR TAXA

Crassula ovata is very similar to *Crassula arborescens*. *C. arborescens* has a distinct waxy bloom on its leaves and its leaves are almost spherical.

DISTRIBUTION

Naturalised. North and Chatham Islands

GENUS

Crassula

FAMILY

Crassulaceae

AUTHORITY

Crassula ovata (Mill.) Druce

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

2002-5



Crassula ovata shrub (wild plant), Asquith Ave, Mt Albert, Auckland. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Date taken: 20/05/2006, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Crassula ovata (wild plant), Asquith Ave, Mt Albert, Auckland. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Date taken: 20/05/2006, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ORIGIN

South Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Horticultural

ETYMOLOGY

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

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

25 May 2026