

Crocosmia ×crocosmiiflora

COMMON NAMES

montbretia

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

FLOWER COLOURS

Orange, Red/Pink

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stiff, leafy, clump-forming, evergreen or summergreen perennial with underground rhizomes. Corms flattened, 35 x 15 mm, fibrous cover, light brown, in 3+ clusters at stem base. Leaves all arising from base, erect to curving above, 90 x 2 cm, firm, sword-shaped, mid-vein conspicuous. Flowerhead tall, zig-zag shaped. Flowers solitary, 6 petals, 3 cm long, orange to crimson, Jan-Feb. Seed capsule 3-sided, 5 mm long; with reddish-brown, flat-triangular, 3 mm seeds.

SIMILAR TAXA

Similar to several other monocot herbs with orange flowers. Tends to have a droopy habit and has flowers arranged in a single plane. Lacks the Bulbils of *Watsonia bulbifera*. *Chasmanthe floribunda* is also similar but leaves and stems are more robust.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Prefers moist soils (Fromont and King, 1992). Streams, forest margins, alluvial plains, roadsides, gravel pits, wasteland, slips, light gaps, shrublands (Fromont and King, 1992).

GENUS

Crocosmia

FAMILY

Iridaceae

AUTHORITY

Crocosmia ×crocosmiiflora (G.Nicholson) N.E.Br.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

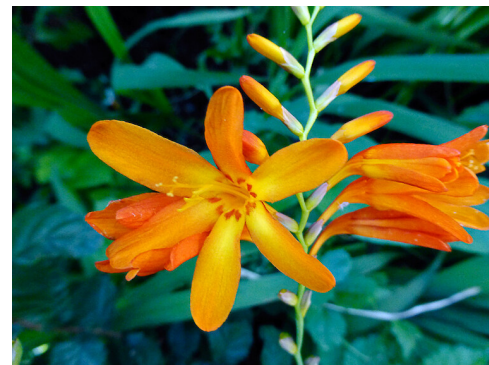
January, February

YEAR NATURALISED

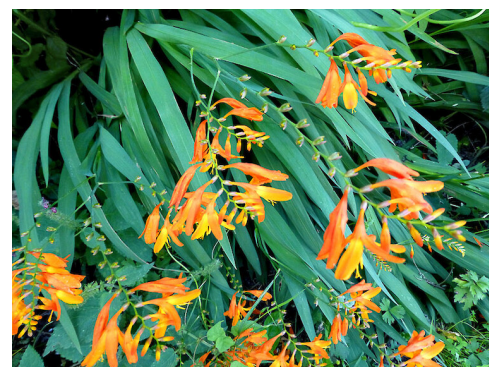
1935

ORIGIN

Tropical South America



Whanganui. Jan 2013. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Moderate to highly tolerant of shade; tolerant of frost and moderately dry conditions (Fromont and King, 1992).

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial; produces strap-like leaves in winter which die down in the summer months (Fromont and King, 1992). Reproduces by two means: produces small cormils on the flower head and sends out creeping rhizomes to extend the colony (Fromont and King, 1992). New cormils are also produced on the original corms which are able to be transported by any soil disturbance (ibid.). Produces no seed, dispersed by soil movement (road graders, fill), vegetation dumping, water movement (ibid).

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

EXTRA INFORMATION

This plant is also called 'Minnie Dean' in Southland.

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/crocoscopia-crococsmiiflora/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026