

# Dacrydium cupressinum

## COMMON NAME

Rimu, red pine

## SYNONYMS

*Thalamia cupressina* Spreng

## FAMILY

Podocarpaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Dacrydium cupressinum* Lamb.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

## NVS CODE

DACCUP

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 20

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2012 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands from North Cape south. Uncommon in large parts of the eastern South Island. Facultatively extinct on Banks Peninsula, where one natural tree is all that remains. Rimu is the type of the genus *Dacrydium*.

## HABITAT

Lowland to montane forest - occasionally ascending to subalpine scrub.

## FEATURES

Dioecious conifer 35(-60) m tall. Adult trees with trunk bare of branches for 3/4 of length. Trunk stout, 1.5-2 m diam., bark dark brown, falling off in large thick flakes. Wood dark red. Branches in juveniles numerous, slender, branchlets pendulous. Adult branches few, spreading, branchlets slender, pendulous. Leaves dark green, bronze-green, red-green or orange, imbricate, those of juveniles 4-7(-10) mm., 0.5-1 mm wide, keeled, acute, linear-subulate, subfalcate, decurrent; those of subadults ascending, incurved 4-6 mm., rhomboid; of adults similar but appressed, 2-3 mm., rigid, subacute, trigonous. Male and Female "cones" first appear on subadults. Male cones (strobili) solitary or paired, terminal 5-10 mm., oblong. Pollen yellow. Ovules solitary, terminal on up-curved branchlets. Receptacle a fleshy red or deep-orange cup 1-2 mm long. Seed oblong or elliptic-oblong, compressed in section, 3-3.8(-4) mm long, semi-glossy, dark-brown.



Fruit. Photographer: DoC



Female cones. Photographer: DoC

## SIMILAR TAXA

A very distinctive species which could not be confused with any other indigenous conifer. The very young juveniles have a superficial similarity to seedlings of silver pine (*Manoao colensoi*) but differ by their much finer, more numerous, dull rather than glossy red-green leaves.

## FLOWERING

December - March

## FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

## FRUITING

Fruits take a year or more to mature and co-occur with young female cones, they are most frequently seen between February and May.

## LIFE CYCLE

Arillate seeds are dispersed by frugivory (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown from fresh seed. Can be grown from hard-wood cuttings but rather slow to strike.

## THREATS

Not Threatened, although as a forest-type it has been greatly reduced through widespread logging. Very few intact examples of rimu-dominated forest remain in the North Island.

## ETYMOLOGY

**dacrydium:** Tear drop

**cupressinum:** Cypress

## WHERE TO BUY

Commonly cultivated and frequently sold by most commercial nurseries and outlets. A very popular garden tree.

## ETHNOBOTANY

The first indigenous beer was brewed using the young tips of rimu (as spruce beer) by Captain Cook at Dusky Sound in 1773 (Kirk 1889).

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 3 February 2006. Description adapted from Allan (1961), Webb & Simpson (2001), fresh material and herbarium specimens.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Allan, H.H. 1961: Flora of New Zealand. Wellington, Government Printer.

Gardner, R. 2001. Notes towards an excursion Flora. Rimu and kahikatea (Podocarpaceae). Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 56: 74-75

Kirk, T. 1889: The Forest Flora of New Zealand. Wellington, Government Printer.

Thorsen, M. J.; Dickinson, K. J. M.; Seddon, P. J. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285-309

Webb, C.J.; Simpson, M.J.A. 2001: Seeds of New Zealand Gymnosperms and Dicotyledons. Christchurch, Manuka Press.

## CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Dacrydium cupressinum* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dacrydium-cupressinum/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/dacrydium-cupressinum/>