**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.
SIMILAR TAXA
A very distinctive species which could not be confused with any other indigenous conifer. The very young juveniles have a superficial similarly to seedlings of silver pine (Manooa 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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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