

Drosera spatulata

COMMON NAMES

sundew

BIOSTATUS

Native

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

DISTRIBUTION

Indigenous. North, South and Stewart islands. Present in Australia

HABITAT

A species of open, acidic, poorly drained ground. May be common on bare clay, often seen in peat bogs, where at times it may form a dense turf. Usually abundant after fires.

GENUS

Drosera

FAMILY

Droseraceae

AUTHORITY

Drosera spatulata Labill.

SYNONYMS

None

ENDEMIC TAXON

No

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Minute seeds are wind dispersed (Thorsen et al., 2009).

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easil grown in an acidic soil, within pots aptially submerged in water. But short-lived. Should not be removed from the wild.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).



Drosera spatulata. Photographer: Kevin Matthews, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Kepler Mire, Southland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 25/02/2007, Licence: CC BY-NC.

EXTRA INFORMATION

In New Zealand this species has been known also by the different spelling *Drosera spatulata*. However the spelling variant offered here is the correct form for this species.

ETYMOLOGY

drosera: Dewy

spatulata: Like a flattened spoon

NVS CODE

DROSPA

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 20

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened | Qualifiers: SO

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Auckland: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened | Qualifiers: DPS, DPT Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Auckland conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation status of vascular plant species in Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland](#)" Simpkins E et al. (2025) report.

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/drosera-spatulata/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026