

Erigeron karvinskianus

COMMON NAME

Mexican daisy

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Erigeron karvinskianus DC.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

NVS CODE

ERIKAR

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Intact and disturbed bush, shrubland, tussockland, fernland, herbfield, bare land, streamsides, cliffs and bluffs, inshore and offshore islands, gumlands, consolidated sand dunes, most coastal areas, riverbeds, epiphyte niches.

FEATURES

Sprawling perennial daisy to 40 cm tall. Roots fibrous. Stems long, thin, sparsely hairy to hairless, much-branching, rooting, sprawling, 15-70 cm long. Leaves small, narrow (upper leaves usually 3-lobed), fragrant when crushed. Flowers daisy-like, white, white-purplish or pink, central disc yellow to brownish-yellow, Jan-Dec. Fluffy seeds in profusion.

SIMILAR TAXA

Bellis perennis (daisy) has nearly identical flowers, but wider leaves in a basal rosette.

FLOWERING

September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April, May.

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

YEAR NATURALISED

1940

ORIGIN

Mexico

ETYMOLOGY

erigeron: From the Greek *eri* 'early' (or ear 'spring') and *geron* 'old', possibly alluding to the hairy seed pappus, or perhaps to the hoary appearance of the leaves of some species in the spring.



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe



Erigeron karvinskianus. Photographer: Richard Hursthouse

Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

Life Cycle Comments

Perennial. Herb

Reproduction

Reproduces by seed and occasionally layering in damp sites.

Seed

Flowers produce masses of fluffy seeds.

Dispersal

Spreads mainly by windblown seeds. Other dispersal methods include roadside mowers, machinery, gravel and water actions.

Tolerances

Tolerates moderate shade to full sun, damp to drought, high to low temperature and almost any surface.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/erigeron-karvinskianus/>