

# Eucomis zambesiaca

## COMMON NAMES

Pineapple lily 'Tiny Piny Sweetie'

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

## SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Bulbous; deciduous; leaves plain green, erect to decumbent with slightly undulate margins; flower spikes erect 25-30 cm, unspotted green, with white flowers and 'pineapple top' of leaves barely as wide as the flower spike.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

## SIMILAR TAXA

Apparently often misidentified as *E. autumnalis* in nurseries, but *E. autumnalis* is a different species which has more undulate leaves, the flowers are in a shorter compressed spike and the leafy bracts of the 'pineapple top' are longer than the width of the inflorescence and hang over it.

## DISTRIBUTION

Found self-sowing in large garden near Fordell, Whanganui in 2018.

## GENUS

*Eucomis*

## FAMILY

Hyacinthaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Eucomis zambesiaca* Baker

## SYNONYMS

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## YEAR NATURALISED

2018

## ORIGIN

South Africa (the 'Tiny Piny' cultivars were first bred in NZ, see below)

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

ornamental



Garden near Fordell, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 04/03/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Fruiting stem; garden near Fordell, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 04/03/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.

### LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Self-seeds - the first record of it naturalising in NZ was near Fordell, Whanganui

### PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Division or seed

### ETYMOLOGY

**eucomis:** From the Greek eukomus 'beautiful haired', referring to the leafy tuft surmounting the flower spike.

### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/eucomis-zambesiaca/>

### PDF DATE

25 May 2026