

Fatsia japonica

COMMON NAMES

fatsia

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree (up to 6 m) with large leaves and a green-black spherical berry 5-8mm diameter (Rogan, 1997).

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

GENUS

Fatsia

FAMILY

Araliaceae

AUTHORITY

Fatsia japonica (Thunb.) Decne. & Planch.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

March, April, May

YEAR NATURALISED

1981

ORIGIN

Japan, S. Korea

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

High shade tolerance (Rogan, 1997). Frost hardy tolerating temperatures down to -5 C(Rogan, 1997).

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seed is dispersed a reasonable distance probably by birds e.g. starlings, blackbirds, mynas, song thrushes, kereru (Rogan, 1997).

ETYMOLOGY

fatsia: From the Japanese name for this shrub Fatsi

japonica: Of Japan



Fatsia japonica sapling in native forest.
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Seedling. Whangarei. Mar 2007. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 09/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

NVS CODE

FATJAP

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/fatsia-japonica/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026