

Gomphocarpus physocarpus

COMMON NAMES

Swan plant, balloon cotton bush

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Similar to *G. fruticosus*, but having more inflated pods (almost globose or spherical, not 'swan shaped') with a shorter stalk.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

GENUS

Gomphocarpus

FAMILY

Apocynaceae

AUTHORITY

Gomphocarpus physocarpus E.Mey.

SYNONYMS

Asclepias physocarpa

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Previously in Asclepiadaceae.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FRUITING

Inflated, almost globose fruits

YEAR NATURALISED

1993 (NZJBot 33:156)

ORIGIN

South Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental and perhaps as food for larvae of Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

seed

POISONOUS PLANT

The tissues are full of a poisonous white milky latex making all parts of the plant toxic including the bladder-like fruits.

MORE INFORMATION



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<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gomphocarpus-physocarpus/>

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