Howea forsteriana

COMMON NAMES
Kentia palm

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Trees & Shrubs - Monocotyledons

HABITAT
The more commonly cultivated of the two *Howea* species in New Zealand (where it is usually known as Kentia Palm). Mostly found in old gardens and parks. Very slow growing. Most fruit is harvested by people before it matures.

GENUS
Howea

FAMILY
Arecaceae

AUTHORITY
Howea forsteriana (C.Moore et F.Muell.) Becc.

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
October–December

FRUITING
Year Round

YEAR NATURALISED
2003

ORIGIN
Lord Howe Island

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Ornamental.

TOLERANCES
Cold intolerant

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Long-lived perennial tree. Reproduces exclusively by seed. Seeds large, 20–40 mm long, somewhat fleshy, bright or dull red when ripe. Dispersed by gravity and possibly birds.

ETYMOLOGY
howea: Named after Lord Howe Island where these palms are found.

Howea forsteriana. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

Upper Crown - note absence of crown shaft, Alberon, Auckland, May 2007. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

NVS CODE
HOWFOR

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING
Johnson AT, Smith HA. 1986. Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning. Landsman Bookshop Ltd, Buckenhill, UK.

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/howea-forsteriana/

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