

Howea forsteriana

COMMON NAME

Kentia palm

FAMILY

Arecaceae

AUTHORITY

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

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Monocotyledonous Trees and Shrubs

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not assessed

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.

FLOWERING

October - December

FRUITING

Year Round

LIFE CYCLE

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.

YEAR NATURALISED

2003

ORIGIN

Lord Howe Island

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental.

TOLERANCES

Cold intolerant

ETYMOLOGY

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

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson, A. T. and Smith, H. A (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/>



Howea forsteriana. Photographer: Peter de Lange



Upper Crown - note absence of crown shaft, Alberon, Auckland, May 2007. Photographer: Peter de Lange