

Hydrangea macrophylla

COMMON NAME

hydrangea

FAMILY

Hydrangeaceae

AUTHORITY

Hydrangea macrophylla (Thunb.) Ser.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

HYDMAC

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Persistent around old homesteads, near water and on forest margins.

FEATURES

Deciduous rounded shrub to about 2 m tall with suckering habit. Leaves tend to be towards the end of the branches and are ovate and up to about 20 x 15 cm, margins coarsely serrate. Flower head either rounded or flat. Usually composed of sterile flowers (especially in cultivation) but can have fertile flowers in centre. Seed capsule to about 5 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Hydrangea is very familiar to New Zealand gardeners, wild material can appear quite different with flat inflorescences containing sterile flowers.

FLOWERING

November, December, January, February, March.

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, Violet/Purple

LIFE CYCLE

Reproduces by suckering, persisting from cultivation and seed. Viable seed can be produced. Dispersed by people and gravity.

YEAR NATURALISED

1975

ORIGIN

Japan

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental.

TOLERANCES

Prefers damp shady areas.



Robinson Crusoe Island, Chile. Photographer: John Sawyer



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ETYMOLOGY

hydrangea: From the Greek hydor 'water' and ageion 'a vessel or vase', referring to the shape of the seed capsules.

macrophylla: Big leaf

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/hydrangea-macrophylla/>