

Lamium galeobdolon

COMMON NAMES

aluminium plant

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

An erect, stoloniferous mat-forming invasive pleasant smelling perennial herb to 50cm tall. Leaves mint-like- lance shaped to egg-shaped leaves to 8cm long by 6cm across, long stalked. Leaves pointed, coarsely-toothed with pale silvery-grey patches on either side of midrib on upper surface. Purplish square, densely hairy stems. Long non-rooting runners. Yellow flowers are 2-2.5cm long with upper and lower lips, occurring in dense axillary whorls (Dec-May).

SIMILAR TAXA

No other species with silver patches on the leaves.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Disturbed bush, shrubland, fernland and margins throughout New Zealand.

GENUS

Lamium

FAMILY

Lamiaceae

AUTHORITY

Lamium galeobdolon (L.) L.

SYNONYMS

Galeobdolon luteum subsp. *luteum* cv. *Variegatum*, *Galeopsis galeobdolon* L., *Lamiastrum galeobdolon* (L.) Ehrend. & Polatschek, *Lamium luteum* (Huds.) Krock.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December, January, February, March, April, May.

YEAR NATURALISED

1988

ORIGIN

Europe, western Asia



Otatara, Southland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 05/02/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Flowering in cultivation. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 13/09/2024, Licence: CC BY-NC.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Tolerates moderate shade, physical damage, wet to moderately dry, many soil types.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Spreads vegetatively, seed not known from New Zealand. Dispersed by stolon fragments via soil movement, vegetative spread.

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

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

LAMGAL

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lamium-galeobdolon/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026