

# Ligustrum sinense

## COMMON NAME

Chinese privet

## FAMILY

Oleaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ligustrum sinense* Lour.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

LIGSIN

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. A plant of coastal and lowland habitats (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). The plant occurs in sites of low-high fertility (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). A plant of scrub and forest margin, roadsides, fencelines, open forest communities (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Communities in which the plant occurs are alluvial forest remnants, wastelands, shrublands, open stream systems and coastal areas (Department of Conservation 1996).

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub or small tree to approx. 5m high, evergreen, or semi-deciduous in cold districts. Shoots densely hairy. Petioles to 5mm long, hairy. Lamina 2.5~6 x 1.25~2.5cm, elliptic or elliptic-oblong, dull green above, hairy on midrib beneath and usu. above in lower part, ciliolate when young; base broad-cuneate; apex usu. obtuse. Panicles to around 10cm long, rather loose; branches densely hairy, somewhat flattened, generally angular; pedicels short. Bracts and bracteoles linear to oblong, caducous. Flowers very fragrant. Calyx 1~2mm long, glabrous or nearly so; lobes very shallow. Corolla white; tube 1.5~2mm long, slightly > calyx; lobes about 3mm long, elliptic-ovate, spreading, subacute. Stamens = or slightly < corolla lobes; anthers pinkish-mauve or purple. Style exserted. Fruit 4~6mm diam., globose or subglobose, dull- or purplish-black. Seed 3~4mm long, oblong, shallowly grooved. (- Webb et. al., 1988)

## SIMILAR TAXA

A shrub or small tree to 5 m high, evergreen or semi-deciduous with densely hairy shoots (Department of Conservation 1996). Leaf stalks are hairy, leaves are dull green above, hairy on the midrib below and oval (up to 6 cm) (Department of Conservation 1996). The plant has panicles of small white flowers (Department of Conservation 1996), fragrant (Anon., 1997: Pestfacts 49, ARC). The fruit is 6 mm in diameter and dull black (Department of Conservation 1996). It looks a bit like putaputaweta (Department of Conservation 1996).



Note puberulent stems. Whanganui. Jun 2011. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Whanganui. Jun 2011. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Licence: CC BY-NC.

**FLOWERING**

July, August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March

**FLOWER COLOURS**

Violet/Purple, White

**LIFE CYCLE**

Perennial. The flower is bisexual; reproduces by seed (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Seeds may remain viable up to 6 months under 4dC refrigeration (ibid.). Gravity and vertebrates disperse seed (ibid.)

**YEAR NATURALISED**

1950

**ORIGIN**

China

**REASON FOR INTRODUCTION**

Ornamental

**TOLERANCES**

The plant is highly tolerant to shade; tolerant to drought; slightly tolerant to poor drainage (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). The plant tolerates clay soil (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Requires low to high soil fertility (Atkinson 1997).

**POISONOUS PLANT**

Poisonous purplish-black berries.

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ligustrum-sinense/>