

Lilium formosanum

COMMON NAMES

Formosan lily

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb with simple stem to about 75 cm. Stems root freely at ground level. Many dark-green strap-like leaves to about 13 cm long. Large white trumpet-like flowers, often tinged purple on the outside.

SIMILAR TAXA

The large white flowers tinged purple make this lily quite distinctive.

HABITAT

Terrestrial, Disturbed areas, Roadsides, Dunes.

GENUS

Lilium

FAMILY

Liliaceae

AUTHORITY

Lilium formosanum A.Wallace

FLOWERING

January, February, March

FRUITING

Feb-April

YEAR NATURALISED

1972

ORIGIN

Taiwan

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Tolerant of salt,

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Reproduces by vegetative spread and seed. Dispersed by people, gravity and water.



Gracefield, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 04/08/2006, Licence: CC BY.



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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

LILFOR

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Cameron, E.K. 1989. *Lilium formosanum* ii. Auckland Botanical Society Journal, 44:48-49.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lilium-formosanum/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026