

Lupinus arboreus

COMMON NAMES

tree lupin

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Short-lived, perennial shrub to 2-3 m high. Deep taproot. Stems densely silky-hairy when young, tough, erect, branching, becoming soft-woody. Leaves grey-green, hairless above, silky below, divided into 5-11 leaflets spreading out from one point finger-like; leaflets 15-40 x 3-10 mm. Flowers pea-like, 15-18 mm long, usually pale yellow (rarely white or bluish), sweetly scented, Oct-May. Seed pod stout, softly hairy, 40-80 mm long, firmly attached; splits explosively to disperse dark brown, mottled seeds, 4-6 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

L. angustifolius blue lupin is a semi-woody annual with blue flowers Aug-Apr, occasionally weedy. *L. polyphyllus* herbaceous weedy species with blue flowers. Hybrid *L. arboreus* x *polyphyllus* has larger and more leaflets, flower yellow with blue or purple streaks; is rarely weedy.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Short tussockland, bare land, riverbeds, coastal sandy and well drained areas.

GENUS

Lupinus

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Lupinus arboreus Sims

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October, November, December, January, February, March, April, May

YEAR NATURALISED

1899

ORIGIN

California, N. America



Hutt River. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 07/06/2006, Licence: CC BY.



Hutt River. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 21/04/2006, Licence: CC BY.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Tolerates wind, salt, hot to cold, physical damage and grazing (not readily eaten), drought, low fertility (fixes nitrogen), fire. Intolerant of moderate shade and waterlogged soils.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Reproduces by seed which can last in the soil for a long time. Dispersed by water and soil movement. Explosive pods. Deliberately sown for sand consolidation, erosion control.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

POISONOUS PLANT

The seed are poisonous if they are chewed or crushed before eating.

ETYMOLOGY

arboreus: From the Latin arbor 'tree', meaning tree-like

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

LUPARB

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lupinus-arboreus/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026