

# Myosotis discolor

## COMMON NAME

grassland forget-me-not

## FAMILY

Boraginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Myosotis discolor* Pers.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

MYODIS

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## DISTRIBUTION

Naturalised (indigenous to Europe). North, South and Chatham Islands

## HABITAT

Open weedy ground, grassland, clay pans, dunes and stone strewn ground - especially common in those sites prone to drying out in late summer

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Annual dark green to purple-green or maroon herb with one to many, erect, hairy branches to c.250 mm high. Lower leaves shortly petiolate or sessile, to c.50 × 10 mm, oblong to oblong-spathulate, densely covered in straight hairs; apex obtuse to acute; upper leaves similar but smaller. Cymes ebracteate, usually elongating to greater in length than the leafy part of stem after flowering. Pedicels always less than calyces in length. Calyx c.3 mm long at anthesis, elongating to 4-5 mm and becoming closed at fruiting; tube with spreading, hooked hairs; lobes cut to half calyx-length. Corolla limb 1.5-2.5 mm diameter, yellow or cream, becoming blue; lobes entire, concave. Style equal to or greater than calyx. Nutlets 1.2-1.5 × 0.75-1 mm, ovoid, dark brown or black, with very narrow rim. Description based on: Webb et al. (1988).

## FLOWERING

October - January

## FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Yellow

## FRUITING

December - April



*Myosotis discolor*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



*Myosotis discolor*. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## THREATS

*Myosotis discolor* is a naturalised weed in New Zealand. It was first recognised in New Zealand in 1879. Although it is at times common weed of seasonally dry habitats (especially rough pasture and grassland) it is not regarded as a serious environmental weed. Its impacts (if any) on our indigenous ecosystems probably happened a long time ago in the early stages of its naturalisation.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1879

## ORIGIN

Europe

## ETYMOLOGY

**myosotis:** Mouse-eared

**discolor:** Two colours or of different colours; from the latin dis and color; different colours of the leaf surfaces

## ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 February 2008. Description based on Webb et al. (1988)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ 1988. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Myosotis discolor* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-dicolor/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-dicolor/>