

Myricaria germanica

COMMON NAMES

false tamarisk

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Evergreen woody shrub growing up to 1.5m high. Upright and multi-branched from base. Small pink flowers at ends of branches in summer. Small green leaves give it an appearance similar to common tamarisk or conifer. (CHCCO-33498)

SIMILAR TAXA

False tamarisk can look similar to young tamarisk trees (*Tamarisk chinensis*), but the trees have finer leaves and can grow up to 10 m tall.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Stony or muddy ground within braided river beds. (CHCCO-33498)

GENUS

Myricaria

FAMILY

Tamaricaceae

AUTHORITY

Myricaria germanica (L.) Desv.

FLOWERING

December, January, February

YEAR NATURALISED

1999

ORIGIN

Europe

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Accidental

TOLERANCES

Can survive flooding - may thrive under flood conditions to increase its spread. (CHCCO-33498)



Desert Road, November 2021. Photographer: Matt Ward, Date taken: 30/04/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Appears to be quite dominant in established areas, competing with and shading other species. Another woody invasive species to be aware of especially in braided river systems. Appears to have well developed dispersal techniques - probably by wind and possibly vegetatively. May spread downstream during floods. As areas get filled up with mud or silt each stem grows up through these layers and continues growing as a new plant. (CHCCO-33498)

ETYMOLOGY

germanica: Of Germany

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

MYRGER

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myricaria-germanica/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026