

Nemophila menziesii

COMMON NAMES

Baby Blue-eyes; Penny Black

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Trailing annual herb, sometimes slightly woody at base. Flowers ca 4 cm diameter, mostly blue with white centre, but other colours in cultivation include 'Penny Black' with purple-black petals with narrow white margins; and var. *atomaria* with white to pale lilac flowers with scattered darker speckles (= 'Snow Storm') or a larger purple spot on outer rim of each petal. Plants soft with deeply incised-to-pinnate leaves.

FLOWER COLOURS

Black, Blue, Purple, White

HABITAT

Drought tolerant. Self-sows freely in gardens once established and spreads to gravel paths and driveways.

GENUS

Nemophila

FAMILY

Hydrophyllaceae

AUTHORITY

Nemophila menziesii Hook. & Arn.

SYNONYMS

Sometimes placed in F. Boraginaceae subfamily Hydrophylloideae

YEAR NATURALISED

2011

ORIGIN

California

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Seed

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/nemophila-menziesii/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026

