

Nigella damascena

COMMON NAMES

love-in-the-mist, devil in a bush

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stem (50-)200-800 mm tall, bright green when fresh, terete, glabrous, branching in upper third to one half. Segments of rosette leaves linear, those of cauline leaves filiform. Involucre present, of 5 finely dissected leaves, twice as broad as the flower. Flowers 20-30 mm diameter. Sepals in several whorls, blue, white or pink, ovate, acute, clawed, the innermost sometimes 3-fid. Petals usually 0. Styles 5. Capsule glabrous, ovoid, swollen, 15-30 × 10-20 mm, 10-locular but only 5 locules fertile; styles 15-25 mm long at fruiting. Seeds black, c.2 mm long, transversely ridged.

GENUS

Nigella

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Nigella damascena L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1883

ORIGIN

N.W. Africa, Asia Minor

ETYMOLOGY

nigella: Blackish

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/nigella-damascena/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026



A small wild plant, MOTAT 1 Grounds (wild), March 2007. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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