

Passiflora edulis f. edulis

COMMON NAMES

black passionfruit

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Vigorous vine, glabrous except for pistil and stamens. Shoots slightly angular. Leaves deeply 3-lobed, but entire on young plants; up to 15 cm long on mature plants. Solitary flowers up to 10 cm across with white petals and filaments largely white but purple towards base, hypanthium inconspicuous. Dark purple round fruit containing sweet orange pulp and small black seeds.

SIMILAR TAXA

Most similar to *P. caerulea* in flower, but this species has leaves with 5 lobes.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Forest margins and shrubland in frost-free areas.

GENUS

Passiflora

FAMILY

Passifloraceae

AUTHORITY

Passiflora edulis Sims f. *edulis*

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

July, August, September, October, November, December, January, February, March

YEAR NATURALISED

1950

ORIGIN

tropical America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural



Passiflora edulis. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Passiflora edulis. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

TOLERANCES

Intolerant of frosts. Prefers high light sites.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. can live for a long time, often succumbs to fungal infections. Reproduces by seed, probably some stem layering. Many seeds are produced. Tends to be spread by people but birds can also spread seeds to remote sites.

ETYMOLOGY

passiflora: Passionflower

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

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](#).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Heenan, PB; Sykes, WR 2003. *Passiflora* (Passifloraceae) in New Zealand: a revised key with notes on distribution. *NZ J Botany* 41: 217-221. DOI: [10.1080/0028825X.2003.9512842](https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2003.9512842)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/passiflora-edulis-f-edulis/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026