Passiflora tarminiana

COMMON NAMES
banana passionfruit

BIOSTATUS
Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS
Not applicable

CATEGORY
Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS
Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS
Red/Pink

DETAILED DESCRIPTION
Vigorous vine, often high-climbing. Stems with small stipules that do not persist long on mature stems. Leaves 3-lobed up to 12 cm long, without hairs on either surface. Flower with short tube (up to 6 cm) with a prominent nectary chamber and widely reflexed pale pink petals. Fruit slender and fusiform, up to 9 cm long. Green with small clear spots ripening to yellowish-orange, pulp orange, sweet and edible. Seed 4-5mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA
Can be separated from other *Passiflora* species, by the three-lobed leaves without hairs, and the absence of stipules on mature stems. When flowering, *P. tarminiana* has a hypanthium/sepal ratio of 1.3-1.6 and a nectary chamber 1.4-2.0 cm wide.

HABITAT
Terrestrial. Lowland and coastal shrubland, margins of remnant forest stands, light gaps, roadsides, wasteland, farm and orchard hedges windbreaks, plantations.

GENUS
Passiflora

FAMILY
Passifloraceae

AUTHORITY
Passiflora tarminiana Coppens & V.E.Barney

ENDEMIC GENUS
No

ENDEMIC FAMILY
No

FLOWERING
January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December

YEAR NATURALISED
1970



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ORIGIN
N Andes

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION
Agricultural

TOLERANCES
Slightly tolerant to shade, intolerant to frost, moderately tolerant to moisture ranges.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL
Perennial. Seed bank viability may be up to 2 years. Reproduces by seed and some vegetative reproduction is possible by suckering stems touching bare soil. Many viable seeds are produced in each fruit. Possums and birds, primarily blackbirds, feed on fleshy fruit (Fromont and King, 1992).

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, P.B.; Sykes, W.R. 2003. *Passiflora* (Passifloraceae) in New Zealand: a revised key with notes on distribution. *NZ Journal of Botany 41:* 217-221. DOI: 10.1080/0028825X.2003.9512842

MORE INFORMATION
https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/passiflora-tarminiana/

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27 May 2026