

Pinus muricata

COMMON NAME

Bishop pine

FAMILY

Pinaceae

AUTHORITY

Pinus muricata D.Don

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

NVS CODE

PINMUR

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

FEATURES

Medium sized tree up to 25 m high with straight trunk, and spreading or slightly drooping branches. The very thick purplish brown bark is deeply fissured into scaly plates. Needles are held in pairs, and are up to 15 cm long arranged in untidy whorls. Two strains in NZ can be identified from needle colour: the "blue" strain, with grey-green to blue-green needles: the "green" strain with yellow-green needles. Male and female cones arise in separate clusters on young shoots. The mature female cones are up to 8 cm long, covered in many stout, sharp spines, and are arranged in whorls around the branches.

SIMILAR TAXA

Long needles in pairs and the persistent, large, very prickly cones of *Pinus muricata* are distinctive.

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

YEAR NATURALISED

1940

ORIGIN

California, N. America

ETYMOLOGY

muricata: Furnished with numerous short hard excrescences

Reason For Introduction

Forestry

Life Cycle Comments

Perennial

Reproduction

Seed.

Dispersal

Wind.

Tolerances

Withstands salt-laden winds (Salmon 2000)



Mount Victoria, Wellington. Sep 2007.
Photographer: Leon Perrie



Mount Victoria, Wellington. Sep 2007. Female
cone. Photographer: Leon Perrie

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pinus-muricata/>