

Pinus muricata

COMMON NAMES

Bishop pine

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Medium sized tree up to 25 m high with straight trunk, and spreading or slightly drooping branches. **Bark** very thick, purplish-brown, deeply fissured into scaly plates. **Needles** held in pairs, 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. **Mature female cones** 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.

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

GENUS

Pinus

FAMILY

Pinaceae

AUTHORITY

Pinus muricata D.Don

YEAR NATURALISED

1940

ORIGIN

California, N. America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Forestry

TOLERANCES

Withstands salt-laden winds (Salmon 2000)

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Reproduces by windborne seed.



Mount Victoria, Wellington. Sep 2007.
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Mount Victoria, Wellington. Sep 2007. Female cone. Photographer: Leon R. Perrie, Licence: All rights reserved.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

EXTRA INFORMATION

The National Wilding Conifer Control Programme team at Biosecurity New Zealand, a branch of Ministry for Primary Industries, has produced this wilding conifer [quick ID guide](#).

ETYMOLOGY

muricata: Furnished with numerous short hard excrescences

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](#).

NVS CODE

PINMUR

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Salmon JT. 2000. The Trees in New Zealand: Exotic Trees: The Conifers. Reed Books, Auckland, NZ. 159 p.

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

25 May 2026