

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

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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

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.

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Reproduces by windborne seed.

YEAR NATURALISED

1940

ORIGIN

California, N. America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Forestry



Mount Victoria, Wellington. Sep 2007.

Photographer: Leon R. Perrie, Licence: All rights reserved.



Mount Victoria, Wellington. Sep 2007. Female

cone. Photographer: Leon R. Perrie, Licence: All rights reserved.

TOLERANCES

Withstands salt-laden winds (Salmon 2000)

ETYMOLOGY

muricata: Furnished with numerous short hard excrescences

CONIFER IDENTIFICATION

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](#).

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/>