

Pinus nigra subsp. nigra

COMMON NAMES

black pine

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tall tree to 40 m with open-branching habit. **Bark** dark brown, fissured and forms scaly plates. **Needles** in pairs, up to 19 cm long, stiff, pointed, and grooved on the opposing sides of the pair. **Male and female flowers** arise in clusters on the branch tips in late spring. **Mature female cones** arise singly or in whorls of 2–4, 8 × 3 cm.

SIMILAR TAXA

Long dark green needles held in pairs, small cones that are shed annually. No spikes on cone scales. *Pinus mugo* subsp. *laricio* has less dense foliage and more flexible leaves than subsp. *nigra*, but the two subspecies can be difficult to distinguish.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Mainly shrubland and grassland.

GENUS

Pinus

FAMILY

Pinaceae

AUTHORITY

Pinus nigra J.F.Arnold subsp. *nigra*

YEAR NATURALISED

1925

ORIGIN

Pyrenees to the Balkan Peninsula and Crimea—introduced from various parts of its range.

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Forestry

TOLERANCES

Tolerant of smoke and air pollution (Salmon 2000).

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seeds short-lived in soil bank; wind dispersed (Atkinson 1997). Requires low soil fertility (Atkinson 1997).



Planted tree, near Huatoki Stream, New Plymouth seafront walkway. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 14/05/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Needle tips of planted tree near Huatoki Stream, New Plymouth seafront walkway. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 14/05/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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

nigra: Black

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

Atkinson IAE. 1997. Problem weeds on New Zealand islands. *Science for Conservation 45*. Department of Conservation, Wellington, NZ. 58 p.

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-nigra-subsp-nigra/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026