

Pinus patula

COMMON NAMES

Mexican weeping pine

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small or medium tree, reaching to 30 m, with wide spreading branches.

Needles up to 30 cm, thin, flexible, held in bundles of three, which droop down below the branches. **Bark** red-brown, peeling readily to reveal bright orange-brown underbark. **Terminal shoots** on the branches turn upright, and are surrounded by male cones. **Female cones** change from pink to brown as they mature, reaching about 8 cm long, often slightly curved and elongated.

SIMILAR TAXA

This species is easily distinguished from all other 2–3 needled pines wild in New Z by the very slender, pendulous, grass-green needles and the prominently erect buds which are often at right angles to the shoot. (Webb et al 1988).

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Aggressively colonises open forest canopy.

GENUS

Pinus

FAMILY

Pinaceae

AUTHORITY

Pinus patula Schltld. & Cham.

YEAR NATURALISED

1957

ORIGIN

S. Mexico

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Forestry

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial; reproduces by wind dispersed seed.

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](#).



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ETYMOLOGY

patula: Spreading

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

PINPAT

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ. 1988. Flora of New Zealand, Volume IV. Naturalised Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons. Botany Division, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Christchurch, NZ. 1365 p.

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

08 July 2026