

Pinus pinaster

COMMON NAME

cluster pine

FAMILY

Pinaceae

AUTHORITY

Pinus pinaster Aiton

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

NVS CODE

PINPIN

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. A plant of coastal and lowland habitats (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). The plant grows in sites of low fertility (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). A plant of shrubland, tussockland, cliff, bluff and coastal communities (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

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

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Medium-sized to large tree with rather open crown, the stout trunk becoming bare of branches for most of length. **Bark** thick, deeply fissured and forming small irregular plates with smooth dark red or reddish-brown surfaces. **Shoots** deep brown or brownish, shining, glabrous, with remains of leaf bases prominent. **Buds** cylindric-oblong, sometimes very large (> 4 × 1.5 cm), not resinous; scales dark reddish, reflexed, with margins strongly white-fimbriate. **Leaves** 2 per fascicle, 6–17 cm × 2 mm, appearing narrower due to incurved margins, dull green, rigid, pungent; resin canals median; sheath 5–10 mm long in older leaves. **Male strobili** < 1.5 cm long, ellipsoid or broad-ellipsoid. **Conelets** sessile, prominent and broad-ellipsoid; scales obtuse, acute or mucronate. **Mature cones** often persistent for several years, sessile or subsessile, 7–15 × 4–6 cm when closed, usually cylindric-ovoid, sometimes ovoid, generally symmetric; apophyses rhomboid, keeled, shining brown; umbo prickly. **Seed wing** asymmetric, to 2.5 cm long. (Webb et. al., 1988)

SIMILAR TAXA

Very distinctive bark forming reddish-brown plates on mature trees. Stout needles in pairs, persistent large cones with a broad spike.

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers



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LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. 11,000–15,000 seeds/kg of cones (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Seeds will survive 10–20 years in storage under 10% moisture content at 5°C (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Seeds "short-lived" in seed bank (Atkinson 1997). Seed is dispersed by wind (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

YEAR NATURALISED

1830

ORIGIN

Mediterranean

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Forestry

TOLERANCES

The plant is tolerant to drought, partial shade and frost and intolerant to poor drainage (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). The plant is intolerant to dense shade (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Physical damage and grazing result in regrowth unless all the green foliage is removed (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Regeneration occurs after fire if there is an adjacent seed source (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Requires low soil fertility (Atkinson 1997).

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

Timmins SM, Mackenzie IW. 1995. Weeds in New Zealand Protected Natural Areas database. *Department of Conservation Technical Series 8*. Department of Conservation, Wellington, NZ. 282 p.

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-pinaster/>