

Pittosporum colensoi

BIOSTATUS

Native – Endemic taxon

CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2023 | Not Threatened

[Jump to previous conservation statuses](#)

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Small tree bearing many flat even green leathery oval leaves that are paler underneath. Leaves 4-10cm long by 2-5cm wide. Flowers dark purple, star-shaped. Fruit 12mm wide, a hard capsule which splits into three to show black seeds in a sticky pith.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

GENUS

Pittosporum

FAMILY

Pittosporaceae

AUTHORITY

Pittosporum colensoi Hook.f.

SYNONYMS

Pittosporum tenuifolium subsp. *colensoi* (Hook.f.) Kirk, *Pittosporum buchananii* Hook.f., *Pittosporum huttonianum* var. *viridifolium* Kirk

ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

UPL: Obligate Upland

Rarely is a hydrophyte, almost always in uplands (non-wetlands).

ETYMOLOGY

pittosporum: Pitch seed

colensoi: Named after William Colenso (7 November 1811 - 10 February 1899) who was a Cornish Christian missionary to New Zealand, and also a printer, botanist, explorer and politician.

NVS CODE

PITCOL

CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 24



In cultivation. October. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Flower. Photographer: Melissa Hutchison, Licence: CC BY-NC.

PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2017 | Not Threatened

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

[Jump to current conservation status](#)

REGIONAL CONSERVATION STATUSES

Otago: 2025 | Regionally Not Threatened Help

The regional threat classification system leverages off the national assessments in the NZTCS, providing information relevant for the regional context. Otago conservation status information is sourced from the "[Conservation Status of Indigenous Vascular Plants in Otago, 2025](#)" Jarvie S et al. (2025) report.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pittosporum-colensoi/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026