

# Prunus xdomestica

## COMMON NAMES

plum

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Deciduous small tree up to about 6 m tall, sometimes forming thickets, usually not armed. Leaves up to 70 x 45 mm on petiole of 15-30 mm. Leaf margins serrulate, lamina hairy at frost and with at least some hairs remaining when mature. White or greenish-white flowers in small clusters. Fruit (plums) to about 45 mm long, green, yellow, red or blackish purple (both flesh and skin) with a smooth stone.

## SIMILAR TAXA

The young shoots dull and hairy, mature leaves usually with at least some hairs on major veins and lower part of margin distinguish this species. There is considerable variation in the fruit of cultivated specimens.

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Near human settlements, waste places and forest margins

## GENUS

Prunus

## FAMILY

Rosaceae

## AUTHORITY

Prunus xdomestica L.

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

August, September

## FRUITING

January, February

## YEAR NATURALISED

1922

## ORIGIN

Cultivated hybrid

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural



Prunus x domestica. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Wild miniature plums, Southland. Photographer: Jesse Bythell, Date taken: 13/02/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## TOLERANCES

Can tolerate strong frosts.

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Can sucker to form small thickets, spread is predominantly by seed. Viable seed in each plum. Dispersed by humans and birds.

## 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](#).

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/prunus-domestica/>

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026