

# Prunus lusitanica

## COMMON NAME

Portugese laurel

## FAMILY

Rosaceae

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Dicotyledonous Trees & Shrubs

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not assessed

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## FEATURES

Large evergreen tree to 7 m high. Leaves more or less elliptic 70-140 by 25-60 mm, and on short petioles 15-25 mm long, more or less purplish. Leaves glossy above and below, with slightly impressed veins above, leaf margins finely toothed. Inflorescence a fairly dense raceme of 47-77 white flowers. Fruit 10-12 mm long, ovoid, smooth glossy purplish black.

## SIMILAR TAXA

With *P. laurocerasus*, *P. lusitanica* is in the sub genus *Laurocerasus* (Cherry Laurels) these are distinguished from other *Prunus* species by the evergreen leaves and pedicellate flowers. *P. lusitanica* can be distinguished from *P. laurocerasus* by the crenate-serrate leaf margin, more or less purplish petioles and the leaves usually smaller than the racemes.

## FLOWERING

November, December

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## FRUITING

March-May

## YEAR NATURALISED

1988

## ORIGIN

Spain, Portugal, Azores

## Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

## Life Cycle Comments

Perennial.

## Reproduction

Seed.

## Seed

Yes

## Dispersal

Seed are spread by birds (Webb et al 1988).

## Tolerances

Young plants are shade tolerant.



**MORE INFORMATION**

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