

Sarcococca ruscifolia

COMMON NAMES

Sweet box

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Evergreen shrub, 1-4 m tall, erect, densely branched. Leaf lanceolate 20-30 mm × 7-12 mm, somewhat leathery, bright green above, lighter green below; tip acuminate. Monoecious with flowers in short racemes; flowers white, fragrant. Fruit fleshy, 7-8 mm diameter, scarlet, terminating with 2-3 persistent styles

FLOWER COLOURS

White

GENUS

Sarcococca

FAMILY

Buxaceae

AUTHORITY

Sarcococca ruscifolia Stapf

YEAR NATURALISED

2017

ORIGIN

China

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Flowers in winter with scarlet fruit soon after

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

http://www.efloras.org/florataxon.aspx?flora_id=3&taxon_id=129205

ATTRIBUTION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/sarcococca-ruscifolia/>

PDF DATE

08 June 2026



Dense seedlings (mostly with cotyledons only), beside planted shrub; Bushy Park, Kaiwi. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 02/05/2017, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Fruit on planted shrub in garden, Bushy Park, Kaiwi, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 02/05/2017, Licence: CC BY-NC.