

Senna septemtrionalis

COMMON NAMES

Buttercup bush, Brazilian buttercup

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Shrub to 2m high, unarmed; twigs glabrous or sparsely hairy, finely ribbed, rounded. Leaves 1-paripinnate, usu. glabrous or sparsely ciliate, sparsely hairy when young, petiolate; leaflets ovate-elliptic, usu. acuminate, sometimes acute, entire, subsessile or shortly petiolulate, 45~90mm long, in 3~4 opposite pairs; protruding glands mostly present between each pair of leaflets; stipules deciduous. Infl. axillary, racemose, 6~12-flowered, < leaves; bracts and bracteoles ovate-triangular, caducous, 3~6mm long. Calyx teeth very unequal, obtuse. Corolla golden yellow, approx. 2cm long; stamens 7; staminodes 3. Pod tardily dehiscent, glabrous, straight, terete, many-seeded, 5~10cm long; seeds smooth, brown, 4~6mm long. (-Webb et. al., 1988)

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

GENUS

Senna

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Senna septemtrionalis (Viv.) H.S.Irwin et Barneby

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

December - June

FRUITING

December - August

YEAR NATURALISED

1965

ORIGIN

Mexico, C America



Senna septemtrionalis. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Senna septemtrionalis showing foliage, Mt Albert School Farm, Mt Albert, Auckland (wild plant), January 2006. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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](#).

NVS CODE

SENSEP

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/senna-septemtrionalis/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026