

# Solanum laxum

## COMMON NAMES

potato vine

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

## FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

High-climbing, usually hairless vine. Stems to 15 m long, semi-woody. Leaf stems to 3 cm long, slender, twining. Leaves alternate, 20-60 x 7-30 mm, thin to oval, occasionally with lobes at base. Flowers star-shaped, white or pale mauve with central yellow cone, 20-33 mm diameter, many and long-lasting in loose terminal clusters, Jan-Dec. Berries 4-6 mm diameter, shiny, dark blue-black, often absent.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Can be confused with *Jasminum polyanthum* when not flowering. However *S. jasminoides* has alternate leaves. The potato-like flowers immediately place this vine in Solanaceae

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## GENUS

*Solanum*

## FAMILY

Solanaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Solanum laxum* Spreng.

## SYNONYMS

*Solanum jasminoides*

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

Can flower in any month of the year.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1958

## ORIGIN

S Brazil



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 29/06/2006, Licence: CC BY.



*Solanum jasminoides*. Photographer: Peter J de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Seeds are dispersed by birds, some spread is almost certainly vegetative (DoC, 1998).

## ETYMOLOGY

**solanum**: Derivation uncertain - possibly from the Latin word sol, meaning "sun," referring to its status as a plant of the sun. Another possibility is that the root was solare, meaning "to soothe," or solamen, meaning "a comfort," which would refer to the soothing effects of the plant upon ingestion.

## 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

SOLLAX

## ATTRIBUTION

Species name change from *S. jasminoides* to *S. laxum* by C C Ogle, 24 Oct 2019

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/solanum-laxum/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026