

# Solanum linnaeanum

## COMMON NAME

apple of Sodom

## FAMILY

Solanaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Solanum linnaeanum* Hepper et P.-M. Jaeger

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

SOLLIN

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial shrub to 1m tall, generally stellate-hairy, branched, strongly armed; prickles yellow, to approx. 1cm long, glabrous or nearly so. Petioles to around 5cm long, prickly. Lamina to about 9 x 7cm, ovate to oblong, deeply pinnatisect, scarcely lobed in seedlings; lobes irregular, sinuate, with rounded apices, extending to 7/8 midrib, with hairs scattered above and mostly dense below, sometimes glabrate except for prickles on midrib and main veins; base truncate to rounded. Cymes few-flowered; pedicels to approx. 1cm long, densely stellate-hairy. Calyx 3~12mm long, often densely stellate-hairy, sometimes prickly, accrescent; lobes ovate to oblong, mainly = tube. Corolla 2.5~3.5cm diam., mauve or violet, stellate-hairy outside; lobes broadly ovate. Anthers 4~6mm long. Berry 1.5~3cm diam., almost globose, mottled green and white when immature, yellow at maturity; stone cells 0. Seeds approx. 3mm diam., subglobose to broad-obovoid. (-Webb et. al., 1988)

## SIMILAR TAXA

Shrub or subshrub to 1-(3) m tall with many yellow thorns, berries green and white changing to yellow at maturity. Can be distinguished from other prickly *Solanum* spp. by the combination of perennial woody habit with clump forming roots, green leaves, mauve or violet flowers, September-May.

## FLOWERING

September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April, May

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, Yellow

## FRUITING

September to May

## LIFE CYCLE

Perennial.



Karekare. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 25/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Karekare. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 25/10/2007, Licence: CC BY.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1883

## ORIGIN

N Africa

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

## 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.

## POISONOUS PLANT

**This species has been reported as poisonous if eaten.**

## MORE INFORMATION

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