

# Solanum marginatum

## COMMON NAMES

white-edged nightshade

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A much branched perennial shrub or small tree, to 5m tall. Prickly (to 1.5 cm long) stems and leaves. Leaves 25 x 18 cm, borne on c. 4cm long stalks; broadly ovate. Usually dark green above except for white hairy margins; undersides white felted. Midrib and veins prickly on veins above. Inconspicuous white (sometimes with mauve veins) flowers, 2.5 - 3.5 cm diam.; round hard yellow, tomato-like fruit.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Hairy fruits, large conspicuous auricles on the vegetative shoots, the large entire woolly leaves and by being the only nightshade in New Zealand which forms a small tree. (Webb et al 1988).

## GENUS

Solanum

## FAMILY

Solanaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Solanum marginatum* L.

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## FLOWERING

November, December, January, February, March

## YEAR NATURALISED

1883

## ORIGIN

N.E. Africa

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Fruit moving in water. cannot discount dispersal by birds or other animals (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.

**marginatum:** From the Latin marginatus ‘edge, margin’, where one colour is surrounded by a very narrow rim of another

## NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

**This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord.** The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

## 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

SOLMAR

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

27 May 2026