

Solanum marginatum

COMMON NAME

white-edged nightshade

FAMILY

Solanaceae

AUTHORITY

Solanum marginatum L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

SOLMAR

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

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).

FLOWERING

November, December, January, February, March

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

LIFE CYCLE

Fruit moving in water. cannot discount dispersal by birds or other animals (DoC, 1998).

YEAR NATURALISED

1883

ORIGIN

N.E. Africa

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](#).



MORE INFORMATION

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