

Sophora cassioides

COMMON NAME

Chilean pelu

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Sophora cassioides (Phil.) Sparre

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

SIMILAR TAXA

Sophora chathamica and *S. microphylla*. Chilean Pelu (*S. cassioides*) is often sold by nurseries as *Sophora microphylla* cv. Goldilocks. It can be recognised by its dark, glossy green, round leaflets which are evenly spaced at the base and become overlapping toward the apex of the leaf, and also by its smaller flowers, which open very widely.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

YEAR NATURALISED

2004

ORIGIN

South America (Chile), Gough Island. Until recently this species was referred to *S. microphylla*, a species to which it is certainly allied but nevertheless easily distinguished.

ETYMOLOGY

sophora: After the Arabic name for a similar tree

Reason For Introduction

Horticultural

Life Cycle Comments

A slow growing tree

Reproduction

From seed

Dispersal

Water or gravity

Tolerances

Very cold and wind tolerant. Can tolerate drought and other extremes of weather.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/sophora-cassioides/>



Sophora cassioides. Photographer: Peter de Lange



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