

Sorbus aucuparia subsp. aucuparia

COMMON NAMES

rowan

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

White

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Tree up to 8m high, usually with an erect trunk and spreading branches; young shoots pilose, sometimes densely so, but soon becoming glabrate. Buds large; outer scales glabrous, purplish, inner scales densely covered with white hairs towards apex. Leaves imparipinnate with up to 8 pairs of leaflets; petiole 20~35mm long, green or brown to purplish, pilose, but hairs deciduous, sometimes with stalked glands; leaflets narrowly oblong or oblong-elliptic, sometimes lanceolate-elliptic, 30~50 x 8~20mm, obtuse to acute, mostly sessile, deep green and glabrous or finely hairy above, paler and finely to densely pilose below, serrate along whole length or sometimes in upper 2/3 only; leaflets of juvenile plants and suckering shoots narrowly elliptic to elliptic-ovate, deeply and jaggedly toothed; stipules generally deciduous, small, acuminate. Infl. drooping, up to approx. 120 mm across; pedicels and branchlets white-villous, becoming glabrate by fruiting. Sepal lobes broadly triangular, 0.6~1.3mm diam., generally orbicular with abbreviated claw, white. Fruit depressed-globose, sometimes oblong-obovoid, 5~10mm diam., deep orange to scarlet, sometimes crimson, glossy. (Webb et. al., 1988)

SIMILAR TAXA

Tree up to 8m high with erect trunk and spreading branches; 8 pairs of leaflets serrate along whole length or upper 2/3; white petals; deep orange to scarlet, glossy fruit (Webb et al., 1988).

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

GENUS

Sorbus

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Sorbus aucuparia L. subsp. *aucuparia*

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October, November



Ahuriri Valley, Canterbury. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



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FRUITING

January to April

YEAR NATURALISED

1904

ORIGIN

Eurasia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial

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](#).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/sorbus-aucuparia-subsp-aucuparia/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026