

Tropaeolum speciosum

COMMON NAME

Chilean flame creeper

FAMILY

Tropaeolaceae

AUTHORITY

Tropaeolum speciosum Poepp. & Endl.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

TROSPE

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Mainly remnant stands of forest, also scrub, sometimes found in more remote forest clearings.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Climbing perennial, often to high canopy, usually hairless. Rootstock thick. Stems slender, usually with coiling tendrils to 7 cm long, watery sap. Leaves 5-fingered, each leaflet 10-35 x 5-16 mm. Flowers solitary, tubular, 15 mm diam, 5 irregular petals, bottom 3 petals with very slender claw 7-8 mm long, scarlet (occ rose), Nov-Apr. Seed capsule thinly fleshy, of 3 round parts, 1 or 2 often remaining small, 1 cm wide, deep blue.

SIMILAR TAXA

Tropaeolum speciosum is very similar vegetatively to *Tropaeolum pentaphyllum*. *T. pentaphyllum* only 2 upper petals developed, while *T. speciosum* has 5 more or less equal petals.

FLOWERING

November, December, January, February, March, April

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

FRUITING

December - March

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial; produces seed. Fruit dispersed by birds.

YEAR NATURALISED

1958

ORIGIN

Chile

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental



Chilean flame creeper. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



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TOLERANCES

Tolerant of warm-cold temperatures, salt, wind, many soil types, damp to dry.

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/tropaeolum-speciosum/>