

Urtica dioica subsp. dioica

COMMON NAME

perennial nettle

FAMILY

Urticaceae

AUTHORITY

Urtica dioica L. subsp. *dioica*

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Generally in damp rich soil. Farmland, fence rows, thickets, stockyards, waste places and roadsides.

FEATURES

Stems 0.6 to 2 m tall, slightly branched at the top, slender, rigid, square, and covered with numerous stinging hairs. Leaves dark green, coarse, opposite (7.5 to 15 cm long) pointed with saw tooth margins, sometimes rounded at the base, covered with stinging hairs. Male and female flowers borne separately but on the same plant, in axillary clusters.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

YEAR NATURALISED

1870

ORIGIN

N. temperate regions

ETYMOLOGY

urtica: From the Latin verb *urere* which means "to burn"

dioica: Two plants

Life Cycle Comments

Perennial

Reproduction

Seeds and underground rootstocks.

Seed

Seed pod 1-seeded. Seeds small, egg-shaped, slightly rough, yellow to greyish-tan.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/urtica-dioica-subsp-dioica/>



Urtica dioica. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth