

Wisteria sinensis

COMMON NAMES

Wisteria

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Deciduous woody climber that can reach up to 30 m in length. Twigs are densely hairy when young, becoming more or less glabrous. Leaves also hairy when young, hairy on undersurface when mature. Compound leaves comprising 8-12 leaflets to 80 mm long in opposite pairs. Inflorescence a large raceme comprising many mauve to deep lilac flowers. Pods rarely produced, 10-15 cm long, can flattened brown seed.

SIMILAR TAXA

Wisteria is very familiar to gardeners. The deciduous foliage and long racemes of lilac pea-like flowers make it very distinctive. *Wisteria floribunda* is also cultivated - on this species the stems twine clockwise, stems twine anti-clockwise in *W. sinensis*. *W. venusta* is also very similar but the most common cultivar is white-flowered and the foliage is much darker when mature.

HABITAT

Terrestrial. waste places and scrub near cultivated plants.

GENUS

Wisteria

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Wisteria sinensis (Sims) Sweet

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October, November, December, January, February

YEAR NATURALISED

1981

ORIGIN

E. Asia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental



Wisteria sinensis. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Mostly vegetative reproduction through layering and suckering. Seed set is recorded but rare. Dispersed by people dumping garden waste.

POISONOUS PLANT

The pods and seeds of this plant are poisonous.

NVS CODE

WISSIN

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/wisteria-sinensis/>

PDF DATE

25 May 2026