

# Caltha novae-zelandiae

## COMMON NAME

New Zealand marsh marigold, yellow caltha

## SYNONYMS

*Psychrophila novae-zelandiae* (Hook.f.) W.A.Weber

## FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Caltha novae-zelandiae* Hook.f.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Native

## ENDEMIC TAXON

Yes

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

CALNOV

## CHROMOSOME NUMBER

2n = 48

## CURRENT CONSERVATION STATUS

2017 | Not Threatened

## PREVIOUS CONSERVATION STATUSES

2012 | Not Threatened

2009 | Not Threatened

2004 | Not Threatened

## DISTRIBUTION

Endemic. North, South and Stewart Islands from the main axial ranges of the North Island south.

## HABITAT

Montane to alpine. Mostly in alpine flushes, seepages, around tarns and slow flowing streams. Also found seen in damp areas in open grassland and in similar sites in fellfield and herbfield.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).



Ruahine range, January. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Franklin Mountains, Fiordland. Photographer: John Barkla, Date taken: 14/11/2012, Licence: CC BY.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Glabrous, rhizomatous perennial of alpine flushes, seepages, bogs and stream sides. Plants forming a low turf with scapes 30-50(-180 mm) tall. Rhizomes stout, white, fleshy. Leaves radical, clustered; petiole up to 100 mm long, slender, grooved, expanded to form a membranous sheathing base. Lamina 8-25 × 4-12 mm, dark green (sometimes centrally blotched and/or marked with bronze), ovate-oblong to oblong, base 2-lobed, subcordate, apex deeply emarginate; margins slightly sinuate to entire; lobes upturned and ± appressed to lamina, almost to midsection of lamina. Scape solitary, short, 1-flowered, finally up to 180 mm long. Sepals 5-7, 10.0-30.0 × 1.8-3.0 mm, pale yellow, 3-nerved, linear-subulate, attenuate. Stamens 15-20; carpels 6-12, ovate in outline, 4-5 mm long; style stout, c.2 mm long. Ripe heads 12-18 mm diameter. Seeds 2-5 per follicle, 1.2- 2.0 mm long, glossy red-brown to dark purple brown, ovate to broadly ovate, or elliptic ovate.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Only reliably distinguished from other, small, alpine *Ranunculus* when flowering. From *Caltha obtusa* readily distinguished when flowering by the linear-subulate yellow rather than oblong-obovate white flowers, and vegetatively by the leaf margins which are shallowly sinuate to entire rather than crenate. Both *C. obtusa* and *C. novae-zelandiae* are easily distinguished from the uncommon, naturalised marsh marigold (*C. palustris*) by their much smaller size, turf-forming growth habit, ecology, and features of the foliage and flowers.

## FLOWERING

September - December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## FRUITING

December - March

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Difficult. Can be grown in a pot but needs to be kept moist, free of bryophytes and algal growth. Needs plenty of light but resents high temperatures and humidity

## ETYMOLOGY

**caltha**: From the Greek kalathos 'goblet', refers to the form of the flower

**novae-zelandiae**: Of New Zealand

## WHERE TO BUY

Not commercially available.

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

New Zealand plants had long been placed in the genus *Caltha*, they were then referred to *Psychrophila*, a decision which was over-ruled on the basis of a detailed study by Schuettpelz & Hoot (2004).

## ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange (28 March 2012). Description by P.J. de Lange.

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Schuettpelz, E.; Hoot, S.B. 2004: Phylogeny and biogeography of *Caltha* (Ranunculaceae) based on chloroplast and nuclear DNA sequences. *American Journal of Botany* 91(2): 247-253.

## NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: de Lange, P.J. (Year at time of access): *Caltha novae-zelandiae* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/caltha-novae-zelandiae/> (Date website was queried)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/caltha-novae-zelandiae/>