

Ugni molinae

COMMON NAME

Chilean guava

FAMILY

Myrtaceae

AUTHORITY

Ugni molinae Turcz.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Thrives in low shrubland and fernland on peaty soils on the Chathams.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Aromatic bushy shrub, 1-2 m high, often suckering profusely. Shoots often reddish when young, later deep brown, densely clothed in short hairs at first. Small ovate leaves shining green with reddish margins. Small pale pink flowers hang down singly or in small clusters. The globular fruit are obviously stalked and reach 14 mm diameter, becoming dark purplish red when ripe, the flesh is white and sweet.

MANAAKI WHENUA ONLINE INTERACTIVE KEY

[Key to the Myrtaceae of New Zealand](#)

SIMILAR TAXA

Could be confused with native shrubs, especially those in the Myrtaceae (e.g. *Neomyrtus* and *Lophomyrtus*). Pendant flowers and fruit are distinctive.

FLOWERING

November, December, January, February, March, April.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Reproduces from fruit. Many seeds contained in each fruit. Viability unknown. Bird dispersed fruits

YEAR NATURALISED

1959

ORIGIN

Chile

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Horticultural



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TOLERANCES

Tolerates wet soils with high acidity, tolerant of cold temps and frosts, re-sprouts after damage (incl fire).

MYRTLE RUST

This taxon is confirmed to be prone to Myrtle Rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*), an invasive fungus which threatens native myrtle species. Learn more myrtlerust.org.nz

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ugni-molinae/>