

Urtica dioica subsp. dioica

COMMON NAMES

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.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

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

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Reproduces by seed and underground rootstocks. Seed pod 1-seeded. Seeds small, egg-shaped, slightly rough, yellow to greyish-tan.

YEAR NATURALISED

1870

ORIGIN

N. temperate regions

ETYMOLOGY

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

dioica: Two plants

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

21 September 2024



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