

Watsonia meriana

COMMON NAMES

watsonia

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, Red/Pink

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb with robust clumps up to about 1 m high, Inflorescence simple or sparingly branched, flowers 6-10 cm long, 3-5 cm diameter, rose-red, maroon-red, salmon-pink or cream tinged with green or white.

SIMILAR TAXA

Can be distinguished from *W. meriana* var. *bulbillifera* by the absence of bulbils, the simple or sparingly branched inflorescence and the relatively large flowers (6-10 cm long) in a wide variety of colours.

HABITAT

Coastal places near human settlements.

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

DETAILED TAXONOMY

FAMILY

Iridaceae

AUTHORITY

Watsonia meriana (L.) Mill.

ECOLOGY

FLOWERING

September, October, November, December

YEAR NATURALISED

1941

ORIGIN

South Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

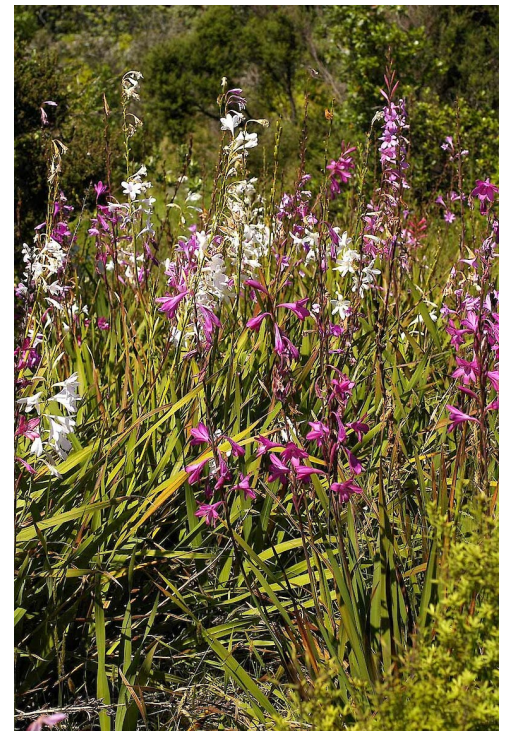
Many occurrences are from dumped garden waste but seedlings can appear near established plants, in places remote from dumping sites.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Corms; seed (though flower colour can't be predicted from seed-grown plants).



Watsonia meriana. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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OTHER INFORMATION

ETYMOLOGY

watsonia: Named after Sir William Watson, an English botanist (1715 – 1787)

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

NVS CODE

WATMER

REFERENCING AND CITATIONS

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: Ogle, C. (Year at time of access): *Watsonia meriana* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network. <https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/watsonia-meriana/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/watsonia-meriana/>

PDF DATE

13 October 2024