

Solanum pseudocapsicum

COMMON NAMES

Jerusalem cherry

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect, unarmed shrub, glabrous or sometimes with few branched hairs on very young shoots; stems wiry, 40~120cm tall. Petiole to 2cm long, slender. Lamina 3~12 x 1~3cm, lanceolate or elliptic-lanceolate, glossy above; margins usu. undulate; base narrowly attenuate; apex obtuse or acute. Flowers 1~several; peduncle 0~8mm long; pedicels 5~10mm long, erect at fruiting. Calyx 4~5mm long; lobes lanceolate to ovate, slightly accrescent. Corolla approx. 15mm diam., white, glabrous; lobes oblong-ovate to triangular. Anthers 2.5~3mm long. Berry 1.5~2cm diam., globose, glossy, orange to scarlet, long-persistent; stone cells 0. Seeds approx. 3mm diam., suborbicular to reniform or obovoid, rather asymmetric; margin thickened. (-Webb et. al., 1988)

SIMILAR TAXA

A plant with attractive glossy orange or red berries around 1-2 cm diameter (Department of Conservation 1996).

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

GENUS

Solanum

FAMILY

Solanaceae

AUTHORITY

Solanum pseudocapsicum L.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

October, November, December, January, February, March, April, May

YEAR NATURALISED

1935



Bartons Bush, Trentham, Upper Hutt.
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ORIGIN

Eastern Sth America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Perennial. Seed is bird dispersed (Webb et al., 1988; Department of Conservation 1996). A plant that is induced by grazing (Department of Conservation 1996).

POISONOUS PLANT

The red-orange berries are very poisonous.

ETYMOLOGY

solanum: Derivation uncertain - possibly from the Latin word sol, meaning "sun," referring to its status as a plant of the sun. Another possibility is that the root was solare, meaning "to soothe," or solamen, meaning "a comfort," which would refer to the soothing effects of the plant upon ingestion.

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

SOLPSE

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/solanum-pseudocapsicum/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026