

# Prunus serrulata

## COMMON NAMES

Japanese hill cherry

## FAMILY

Rosaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Prunus serrulata* Lindl.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

PRUSER

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Deciduous tree up to about 12 m tall. Leaves thin, broadly ovate 80-130 by 45-60 mm, petiole 20-32 mm, lamina rounded at the base tapering to a point at the tip, glabrous above and below, with serrate margins. Inflorescence a cluster of 3-4 white to pink flowers on short lateral shoots. Fruit less than 15 mm diameter, globose, dark red-black, stone smooth.

## SIMILAR TAXA

In the sub genus *Carasus* (cherries). The acuminate (tapering to a fine point, sides slightly concave) marginal teeth on the leaves and the spreading flowers distinguish this species.

## FLOWERING

August, September, October

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Reproduces by seed which is probably dispersed by birds.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1982

## ORIGIN

China, Japan

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

## ETYMOLOGY

**serrulata**: Rough edged



Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 23/09/2012, Licence: CC BY.



Bark. Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 23/04/2011, Licence: CC BY.

## 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](#).

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/prunus-serrulata/>

## PDF DATE

17 September 2024