

# Passiflora caerulea

## COMMON NAME

blue passion flower

## FAMILY

Passifloraceae

## AUTHORITY

Passiflora caerulea L.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Coastal areas, lowlands, light gaps, prefers fertile soil (DOC, 1998). Forest margins and scrub, roadsides wastelands, farm and orchard hedges, domestic gardens.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Hairless vine with angular shoots. Leaves deeply 5-lobed and thin, middle lobe 3.5-8.5 cm long. Flowers purple/white, December-April.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Can be separated from all other passiflora by at least some of the leaves having 5 lobes. Very distinctive blue flowers in summer.

## FLOWERING

December, January, February, March, April.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

## LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Reproduces from seed, but also spreads vegetatively over large distances. Many viable seeds are borne in each fruit. Dispersed by blackbirds, fruit is also eaten by possums.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1958

## ORIGIN

S. Brazil to Argentina

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

## TOLERANCES

The most cold-tolerant of all *Passiflora* species in NZ.

## ETYMOLOGY

**passiflora:** Passionflower

**caerulea:** From the Latin caeruleus 'sky blue'



Passiflora caerulea. Photographer: Auckland Regional Council, Licence: Public domain.

## NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

**This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord.** The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Heenan, PB; Sykes, WR 2003. *Passiflora* (Passifloraceae) in New Zealand: a revised key with notes on distribution. *NZ J Botany* 41: 217-221. DOI: [10.1080/0028825X.2003.9512842](https://doi.org/10.1080/0028825X.2003.9512842)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/passiflora-caerulea/>