

# Pinus muricata

## COMMON NAMES

Bishop pine

## FAMILY

Pinaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Pinus muricata* D.Don

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

## NVS CODE

PINMUR

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Medium sized tree up to 25 m high with straight trunk, and spreading or slightly drooping branches. **Bark** very thick, purplish-brown, deeply fissured into scaly plates. **Needles** held in pairs, up to 15 cm long arranged in untidy whorls. Two strains in NZ can be identified from needle colour: the "blue" strain, with grey-green to blue-green needles: the "green" strain with yellow-green needles. **Male and female cones** arise in separate clusters on young shoots. **Mature female cones** up to 8 cm long, covered in many stout, sharp spines, and are arranged in whorls around the branches.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Long needles in pairs and the persistent, large, very prickly cones of *Pinus muricata* are distinctive.

## FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

## LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Reproduces by windborne seed.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1940

## ORIGIN

California, N. America

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Forestry



Mount Victoria, Wellington. Sep 2007.  
Photographer: Leon R. Perrie, Licence: All rights reserved.



Mount Victoria, Wellington. Sep 2007. Female cone. Photographer: Leon R. Perrie, Licence: All rights reserved.

## TOLERANCES

Withstands salt-laden winds (Salmon 2000)

## ETYMOLOGY

**muricata:** Furnished with numerous short hard excrescences

## 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](#).

## EXTRA INFORMATION

The National Wilding Conifer Control Programme team at Biosecurity New Zealand, a branch of Ministry for Primary Industries, has produced this wilding conifer [quick ID guide](#).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Salmon JT. 2000. The Trees in New Zealand: Exotic Trees: The Conifers. Reed Books, Auckland, NZ. 159 p.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/pinus-muricata/>

## PDF DATE

17 September 2024