

Myosotis laxa subsp. caespitosa

COMMON NAMES

water forget-me-not

SYNONYMS

Myosotis caespitosa CF Schultz

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis laxa Lehm. subsp. *caespitosa* (CF Schultz) Hyl. ex Nordh.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

MYOLSC

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Low growing herb on wet ground and damp hollows. Leaves are pale green, stems often bend at the base and leaves are willow like. The flowers are small, pale blue with a yellow center.

DISTRIBUTION

Widespread and very common throughout New Zealand.

HABITAT

Margins of ponds and streams and wet hollows, growing submerged in clear fast-flowing streams.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants are annual or biennial and 20 to 40 cm tall. Stems are decumbent or ascending. Leaves are narrow, alternate and attached directly to the stem and have pointed or rounded tips with a prominent mid-vein. Leaves usually 30 to 60 mm long, pale green with sparse appressed hairs. Flowers are 2 to 4mm wide, pale blue (with yellow centre). Pedicels at fruiting 2 to 3 times as long as calyx. Nutlets (4) are dark brown.

SIMILAR TAXA

M. scorpioides is similar, but has larger flowers and small calyx lobes.

FLOWERING

September to May

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, Yellow

FRUITING

Summer to autumn



Trentham, Upper Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 04/01/2007, Licence: CC BY.



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LIFE CYCLE

Mainly seed dispersal by water movement and animals contaminated with hooked persistent calyx surrounding seed.

YEAR NATURALISED

1892

ORIGIN

Temperate Eurasia, East to Himalaya

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental pond and garden plant

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

laxa: Slack, loose

caespitosa: From the Latin caespes 'tuft' or 'sod of turf', meaning growing in tufts or patches

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

WSDE (2001). An aquatic plant identification manual for Washington's freshwater plants. Washington State Department of Ecology, 195pp.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-laxa-subsp-caespitosa/>

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