

Nigella damascena

COMMON NAME

love-in-the-mist, devil in a bush

FAMILY

Ranunculaceae

AUTHORITY

Nigella damascena L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stem (50-)200-800 mm tall, bright green when fresh, terete, glabrous, branching in upper third to one half. Segments of rosette leaves linear, those of cauline leaves filiform. Involucre present, of 5 finely dissected leaves, twice as broad as the flower. Flowers 20-30 mm diameter. Sepals in several whorls, blue, white or pink, ovate, acute, clawed, the innermost sometimes 3-fid. Petals usually 0. Styles 5. Capsule glabrous, ovoid, swollen, 15-30 × 10-20 mm, 10-locular but only 5 locules fertile; styles 15-25 mm long at fruiting. Seeds black, c.2 mm long, transversely ridged.

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, White

YEAR NATURALISED

1883

ORIGIN

N.W. Africa, Asia Minor

ETYMOLOGY

nigella: Blackish

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/nigella-damascena/>



A small wild plant, MOTAT 1 Grounds (wild), March 2007. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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