

# Geranium gardneri

## COMMON NAME

Gardner's geranium

## FAMILY

Geraniaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Geranium gardneri* de Lange

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Weed of rough pasture, road and streetside verges, derelict land, urban waste, coastal scrub and grassland.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Geranium homeanum* which differs by the larger carrot-smelling leaves with reddish undersides, less hairy stems, larger flowers, and seeds. Has been treated in New Zealand as *Geranium solanderi* "coarse hairs" but DNA places it not with the *G. solanderi* complex but with *G. potentilloides*.

## FLOWERING

Throughout the year

## FRUITING

Throughout the year

## LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Plants self compatible, seeding freely. Seed dispersed by wind, ballistic projection and possibly attachment (Thorsen et al., 2009).

## YEAR NATURALISED

c.1860

## ORIGIN

Probably Australia, also established on Norfolk Island.

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Probably a seed contaminant in goods transported by shipping from Australia, as first site of introduction in New Zealand was the Port of Auckland.

## ETYMOLOGY

**geranium:** From the Greek geranos 'crane', the fruit of the plant resembling the head and beak of this bird, hence the common name cranesbill.

**gardneri:** Commemorating the New Zealand botanist Rhys O. Gardner (1949-)

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Thorsen MJ, Dickinson KJM, Seddon PJ. 2009. Seed dispersal systems in the New Zealand flora. *Perspectives in Plant Ecology, Evolution and Systematics* 11: 285–309.

## MORE INFORMATION



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