

# Veronica officinalis

## COMMON NAMES

common speedwell

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple

## GENUS

Veronica

## FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Veronica officinalis* L.

## ENDEMIC GENUS

No

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## ETYMOLOGY

**veronica:** Named after Saint Veronica, who gave Jesus her veil to wipe his brow as he carried the cross through Jerusalem, perhaps because the common name of this plant is 'speedwell'. The name Veronica is often believed to derive from the Latin vera 'truth' and iconica 'image', but it is actually derived from the Macedonian name Berenice which means 'bearer of victory'.

**officinalis:** From the Latin officina shortened from opificina which originally meant 'workshop' but later came to mean a monastic storeroom, herb-room or pharmacy. Refers to the plant's real or perceived medicinal value.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-officinalis/>

## PDF DATE

25 May 2026



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