

# Allium triquetrum

## COMMON NAME

onion weed

## FAMILY

Alliaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Allium triquetrum* L.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

## NVS CODE

ALLTRI

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Disturbed forest and shrubland, streamsides, herbfields, bare land. Especially after spraying or other clearance to bare land.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FAC: Facultative

Commonly occurs as either a hydrophyte or non-hydrophyte (non-wetlands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial herb to about 60 cm, strong garlic smell. Bulbs to 10-15 mm diameter, with offset bulbs. Leaves 2-5, linear, fleshy, keeled, 20-60 cm long, with white papery sheaths. The leaves usually die back in late spring. Flower stalk is three-sided, 20-60 cm high, fleshy and soft, sheathed by leaves at the base. Flowers are bell-shaped, 10-15 mm long, 5 petalled, white with green stripe on the petals, on drooping stalks. Seed capsules 7 mm diameter containing small black seeds.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Can be separated from other species in the *Allium* genus by the sharply triangular stems. *Leucojum aestivum* and *Nothoscordum inodorum* are also similar but lack the garlic odour.

## FLOWERING

October, November

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

## LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Tends to die back in late spring. Reproduces by seed and vegetative reproduction. Seeds are wind dispersed. Many seeds are produced. Bulbs can be dispersed by soil movement. Very shade tolerant.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1899



Onion weed. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Flowers of onion weed. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.

## ORIGIN

South West Europe, North Africa

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

## ETYMOLOGY

**allium:** Possibly from the Latin word for garlic or the Celtic word all 'pungent' or 'burning'

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/allium-triquetrum/>