

Chamaecytisus palmensis

COMMON NAME

tree lucerne

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Chamaecytisus palmensis (Christ) F.A.Bisby & K.W.Nicholls

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

CHAPAL

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Dry places, river beds, coastal sites, hillsides.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Large shrub or small tree to about 5 m tall. Leaves three-foliolate, each leaflet up to 40 mm long, finely downy when young but becoming glabrous at full size. White flowers produced in profusion in clusters of 3-8. Seed pod up to 60 mm long, tomentose but more or less glabrous when mature containing many shiny black seeds each about 5mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

Several other *Chamaecytisus* species are cultivated in NZ. The most similar is *C. proliferus* but this species has villous leaf undersides. *C. purpureus* has pink flowers, and *C. supinus* has yellow flowers.

FLOWERING

May, June, July, August, September, October

FLOWER COLOURS

White

LIFE CYCLE

Reproduces by seed, many thousands of tiny seeds are produced. Dispersed by water and moving gravel.

YEAR NATURALISED

1919

ORIGIN

La Plama, Canary Is

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/chamaecytisus-palmensis/>



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