

Cynara cardunculus

COMMON NAME

Cardoon

FAMILY

Asteraceae

AUTHORITY

Cynara cardunculus L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledonous composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The flowers of the cardoon are thistle like with globular heads, from which mauve-purple tufts into a flat-topped inflorescence (there is also a white flowered form of *C. cardunculus*). (Ermert and Clapp 1998)

FLOWERING

November, December, January, February, March

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple, White

FRUITING

February, March

LIFE CYCLE

Reproduces by seeds (the long seeds are brown or black). The seeds are large and relatively heavy, thereby making them unsuitable for spreading by wind, although they can blow along the ground. (Ermert and Clapp 1998)

YEAR NATURALISED

1897

ORIGIN

Mediterranean

ETYMOLOGY

cynara: From the Greek kyon 'dog', referring to the spines on the involucre suggesting a dog's teeth

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/cynara-cardunculus/>



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Seedhead. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 30/03/2013, Licence: CC BY-NC.