

Erica caffra

COMMON NAME

hedge heath

FAMILY

Ericaceae

AUTHORITY

Erica caffra L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

ERICAF

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect shrub up to about 3 m. Shoots are densely white-pilose. Leaves to about 13 mm. Small white (occasionally pink) bell-shaped flowers held in small clusters on the end of small shoots coming off the main stems. Capsule to about 2.5 mm long.

SIMILAR TAXA

One of the few species of the genus with fragrant flowers. Also the corolla is obviously hairy on the outside. These characters and the longer leaves distinguish it from *E. lusitanica* for which it has been mistaken.

FLOWERING

July, August, September, October

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

YEAR NATURALISED

1940

ORIGIN

South Africa

ETYMOLOGY

erica: From the Greek ereika 'heath' or 'heather'

Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

Reproduction

Spreads by seed.

Seed

Many seeds are produced.

Dispersal

People, gravity

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/erica-caffra/>



Garden shrub, Bastia Hill, Whanganui.
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