

# Ficus pumila

## COMMON NAME

creeping fig

## FAMILY

Moraceae

## AUTHORITY

Ficus pumila L.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Moderate to full sun. Vicinity of old or abandoned gardens, climbing up buildings, walls, telegraph poles.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Evergreen, monoecious, scandent shrub becoming +/- erect at flowering. Young stems moderately to densely hairy, becoming glabrous. Leaves glabrous above, finely hairy below when young but becoming +/- glabrous, not lobed, entire, ovate to elliptic, cordate and often asymmetric at base, obtuse to acute, 1.5-3-(4) cm long on young scandent shoots, up to 12 cm long on the more erect flowering shoots; veins very prominently raised below; petiole < blade; stipules 2 per node, densely hairy, triangular, caducous. Inflorescence hairy, pyriform to subglobose, green, shortly pedunculate. Syncarp purplish pink, 2-8 cm long; achenes not seen. (Webb et al. 1988).

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green

## YEAR NATURALISED

1981

## ORIGIN

Japan, China

## ETYMOLOGY

**ficus:** The Latin name for fig tree, possibly derived from the Hebrew word fag

**pumila:** Small

## Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

## Life Cycle Comments

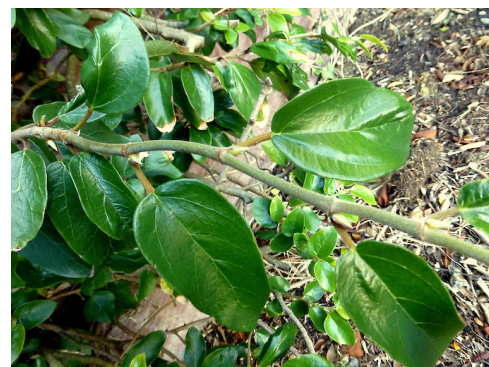
Perennial. Can't set seed but climbs and adheres to paintwork etc, resulting in damage to walls [not seen as a problem yet (Ewen Cameron 1996)]

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ficus-pumila/>



Adult foliage; semi-escaped along old stone wall; Taylor St, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 20/03/2013, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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