

Fraxinus excelsior

COMMON NAME

ash

FAMILY

Oleaceae

AUTHORITY

Fraxinus excelsior L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

FRAEXC

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. riverflats, forest, scrub and waste places.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Large tree to about 30 m. Leaves alternate, with 9-13 leaflets on petioles to about 8 cm long. Leaflets to about 10 x 3.5 cm, lanceolate with serrate margins. The flowers are very small and purple, lack petals, and appear before the leaves with male and female flowers on separate trees. The single-winged seeds hang in dense clusters from the branches.

SIMILAR TAXA

Several species of Ash are cultivated in New Zealand. *F. excelsior* can be separated by the large number of leaflets, and green mid-veins.

FLOWERING

September, October

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple

LIFE CYCLE

Many seeds are produced but wild plants are rare. Seed viability unknown. Dispersed by wind and people.

YEAR NATURALISED

1904

ORIGIN

Europe, W. Asia, N.Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

ETYMOLOGY

fraxinus: From the Latin name for ash, possibly derived from the Greek phrasso 'to fence', the timber being very useful for fence making.

MORE INFORMATION



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