

Illicium anisatum

COMMON NAME

Japanese star anise, aniseed tree, sacred anise tree

SYNONYMS

Illicium japonicum Sieb. *Illicium religiosum* Sieb. et Zucc. A Family Illiciaceae, containing *Illicium*, is sometimes separated from F. Schisandraceae.

FAMILY

Schisandraceae

AUTHORITY

Illicium anisatum L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Poisonous (cf, Chinese star anise, *Illicium verum*). Evergreen shrub or small tree to 5m tall. Leaves shiny dark green with undulate margins. Flowers with 7-15 separate tepals (petals + sepals), up to 20 stamens; ovary of 7-9 free carpels which mature as dry, star-shaped follicles.

HABITAT

Seedlings self-establish near parent shrubs.

SIMILAR TAXA

Some species of F. Magnoliaceae and F. Winteraceae resemble *Illicium*.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

LIFE CYCLE

Shrubs can flower and seed in NZ gardens when barely 1 m tall

YEAR NATURALISED

2010

ORIGIN

Japan, South Korea, Taiwan

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental; sometimes grown overseas for incense

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/illicium-anisatum/>



Immature fruit on planted shrub; 'Paloma', Fordell, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 06/11/2010, Licence: CC BY-NC.