

Jasminum polyanthum

COMMON NAME

jasmine

FAMILY

Oleaceae

AUTHORITY

Jasminum polyanthum Franch.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Perennial, evergreen, climbing, almost hairless, non-woody vine. Stems round, tough, very long, rooting at nodes. Leaves opposite, pinnate with usually 7 leaflets, terminal leaflet up to 7 x 2.5 cm, others smaller, all entire. Flowers clustered in panicles, tube-like, up to 25 mm diameter, very fragrant, white, pink in bud, Jan-Dec. Berries glossy black, 5-8 mm diameter, rarely formed.

SIMILAR TAXA

Easily identified climber with opposite palmately compound leaves and fragrant pink and white flowers.

FLOWERING

January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

LIFE CYCLE

Evergreen perennial. Can spread from cuttings and grows from any small section of stem material. The viability of the seed in the seed bank is unknown (Wotherspoon 1996). In NZ, seeds were rare, but are now found on plants in some areas; produces few seeds. Sets viable seed (Fromont and King, 1992). The seed is dispersed by birds.

YEAR NATURALISED

1980

ORIGIN

W China

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

The plant is intolerant of more than a few degrees of frost and only grows vigorously in warmer areas (Webb et. al. 1988). Tolerant of frost, shade and moisture. Can flower under a full canopy (Fromont and King, 1992).

ETYMOLOGY

jasminum: Believed to be derived from 'ysmin', the Arabic name for Jasmine.



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REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson, A. T. and Smith, H. A (1986). *Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning*. Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. (1988). *Flora of New Zealand, volume IV. Naturalise Pteridophytes, Gymnosperms, Dicotyledons*. DSIR Botany Division. 1365pp.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/jasminum-polyanthum/>