

Lagunaria patersonia

COMMON NAME

Norfolk Island hibiscus tree, white oak, whitewood, pyramid tree

FAMILY

Malvaceae

AUTHORITY

Lagunaria patersonia (Andrews) G.Don

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

A commonly planted tree in coastal and lowland areas of northern New Zealand. Popular because it is very fast growing and once established wind, salt and drought tolerant. The seeds are enclosed in long hibiscus-like pods, these are covered in bristle-like hairs which can cause major irritation if they pierce the skin.

FLOWERING

September–April but sporadic throughout the year

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

FRUITING

Present throughout the year

YEAR NATURALISED

1994 (published 1996)

ORIGIN

Norfolk and Lord Howe Island groups. The Queensland plant long treated as a subspecies (subsp. *bracteata* (Benth.) P.S.Green) has recently been elevated to species rank as *L. queenslandica* Craven.

Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

Life Cycle Comments

Long-lived perennial tree

Reproduction

By seed—in good conditions can begin to flower within four years of germination.

Seed

Long-lived, forming a seed bank with seed germinating only when conditions are suitable.

Dispersal

Mainly spread by inappropriate coastal plantings, careless discard of garden clippings and down water courses near which it has been planted. The seeds are enclosed in somewhat buoyant pods.

Tolerances

Cold sensitive. Drought, wind and salt tolerant.



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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lagunaria-patersonia/>