

# Malva arborea

## COMMON NAME

tree mallow

## SYNONYMS

Lavatera arborea; Malva dendromorpha M.F.Ray (1998)

## FAMILY

Malvaceae

## AUTHORITY

Malva arborea (L.) Webb & Berthel.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

MALARB

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Waste places, cultivated land, Coastal sites.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stout biennial herb, usually with a single stem up to 2 m tall. Stems hairy when young, becoming hairless and woody at base when older. Leaves velvety to the touch, with 5-7 lobes, up to 20 cm across. Lilac to purple flowers arranged in clusters at end and along upper parts of the stem. 6-8 seeds per fruit.

## SIMILAR TAXA

There are several other large Malva species that have naturalised in New Zealand.

## FLOWERING

August, September, October, November, January, February, March, April, May.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple

## LIFE CYCLE

Spreads by seed, 6-8 seeds produced by each fruit. Dispersed by soil movement.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1870

## ORIGIN

W. and S. Europe, N. Africa

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

## TOLERANCES

Prefers high light, thrives in disturbed sites and can tolerate salt.



Malva dendromorpha. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Pauatahanui Inlet. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 10/06/2006, Licence: CC BY.

## ETYMOLOGY

**arborea:** From the Latin arbor 'tree', meaning tree-like

## TAXONOMIC NOTES

Long known as *Lavatera arborea*, in 1998 this species was transferred to *Malva* by Ray (1998).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Ray, M.F. 1998: New combinations in *Malva* (Malvaceae: Malveae). *Novon* 8: 288-295.

Hill, S.R. 2009: Notes on California Malvaceae including nomenclatural changes and additions to the flora. *Madroño* 5.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/malva-arborea/>