

Musa sikkimensis

COMMON NAME

Darjeeling banana

FAMILY

Musaceae

AUTHORITY

Musa sikkimensis Kurz

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Monocots

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A tree-like perennial herb with stems to 4 m tall that die off to ground level after flowering. The plant is a perennial, with new suckers or off-shoots arising from the base of the dead stems, the 'stem' being made up of tightly packed leaf sheaths. The inflorescence is on an unbranched arching 'stalk' extending well beyond the 'stem' and contains both male and female flowers in terminal bunches, followed by short plump 'bananas' in whorls along the 'stalk'; each banana is packed with hard black seeds. Reputedly one of the most cold-hardy Musa species.

DISTRIBUTION

Grown in many warmer and temperate parts of New Zealand as an ornamental plant but this (2018) is the first record of its self-establishing from seed.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Seed or off-shoots

YEAR NATURALISED

2018

ORIGIN

Himalayas of north-eastern India, Bhutan

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

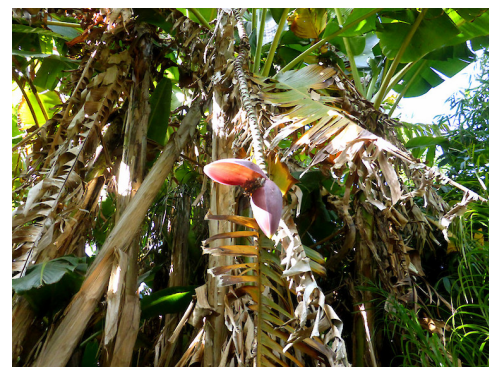
Ornamental

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/musa-sikkimensis/>



Cultivated; garden near Fordell, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 29/05/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Cultivated plant with inflorescence; garden near Fordell, Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 29/05/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.