

Myosotis arvensis

COMMON NAME

field forget-me-not

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Myosotis arvensis (L.) Hill

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

MYOARV

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

DISTRIBUTION

Naturalised (Indigenous to Europe and western Asia). Present in North, South, Stewart Islands

HABITAT

Rather common. A widespread weed of waste places, cultivated land, and other open, modified habitats also locally common in damp sites in tussock grassland. Altitudinal range sea level to c.1000 m.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACU: Facultative Upland

Occasionally is a hydrophyte but usually occurs in uplands (non-wetlands).

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Annual to biennial herb. Stems numerous and erect, up to c.300 mm high, angled. Lower leaves sessile, to c.80 × 20 mm, oblanceolate to oblong, hairy on both surfaces; hairs not hooked; apex obtuse; upper leaves similar but smaller. Cymes ebracteate, elongating to slightly greater than leafy part of stem after flowering. Pedicels 1 to nearly 3× length of calyx at fruiting. Calyx 3-5 mm long, elongating to c.7 mm at fruiting; hairs spreading, often hooked towards base; lobes ± triangular, cut to about half the length of calyx. Corolla tube less than calyx-length; limb c.3 mm diameter, concave, blue; lobes entire. Style very short. Nutlets 1.5-2.5 × 0.75-1.0 mm, ovoid, acute, dark brown or black; rim present. Description from: Webb et al. (1988).

FLOWERING

October - May

FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, White

FRUITING

November - June



Myosotis arvensis. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Hutt River Trail north of Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 27/01/2007, Licence: CC BY.

THREATS

Myosotis arvensis is a naturalised weed in New Zealand. It was first recognised in New Zealand in 1872. although rather weedy it is not regarded as a serious environmental weed. Its impacts (if any) on our indigenous ecosystems have probably happened a long time ago in the early stages of its naturalisation.

YEAR NATURALISED

1872

ORIGIN

Europe, W. Asia

ETYMOLOGY

myosotis: Mouse-eared

arvensis: Growing in arable fields

ATTRIBUTION

Fact Sheet prepared for NZPCN by P.J. de Lange 1 February 2008. Description based on Webb et al. (1988)

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Webb CJ, Sykes WR, Garnock-Jones PJ 1988. Flora of New Zealand. Vol. IV. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-arvensis/>