

# Myosotis laxa subsp. caespitosa

## COMMON NAME

water forget-me-not

## SYNONYMS

*Myosotis caespitosa* CF Schultz

## FAMILY

Boraginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Myosotis laxa* Lehm. subsp. *caespitosa* (CF Schultz)

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

MYOLSC

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Low growing herb on wet ground and damp hollows. Leaves are pale green, stems often bend at the base and leaves are willow like. The flowers are small, pale blue with a yellow center.

## DISTRIBUTION

Widespread and very common throughout New Zealand.

## HABITAT

Margins of ponds and streams and wet hollows, growing submerged in clear fast-flowing streams.

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Plants are annual or biennial and 20 to 40 cm tall. Stems are decumbent or ascending. Leaves are narrow, alternate and attached directly to the stem and have pointed or rounded tips with a prominent mid-vein. Leaves usually 30 to 60 mm long, pale green with sparse appressed hairs. Flowers are 2 to 4mm wide, pale blue (with yellow centre). Pedicels at fruiting 2 to 3 times as long as calyx. Nutlets (4) are dark brown.

## SIMILAR TAXA

*M. scorpioides* is similar, but has larger flowers and small calyx lobes.

## FLOWERING

September to May

## FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, Yellow

## FRUITING

Summer to autumn



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## LIFE CYCLE

Mainly seed dispersal by water movement and animals contaminated with hooked persistent calyx surrounding seed.

## YEAR NATURALISED

1892

## ORIGIN

Temperate Eurasia, East to Himalaya

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental pond and garden plant

## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

## ETYMOLOGY

**myosotis:** Mouse-eared

**laxa:** Slack, loose

**caespitosa:** From the Latin caespes 'tuft' or 'sod of turf', meaning growing in tufts or patches

## ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

WSDE (2001). An aquatic plant identification manual for Washington's freshwater plants. Washington State Department of Ecology, 195pp.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/myosotis-laxa-subsp-caespitosa/>