

Opuntia robusta

COMMON NAME

Robust cactus

FAMILY

Cactaceae

AUTHORITY

Opuntia robusta Pfeiff.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Collected from the wild at the top of an old quarry pit in the Port Hills, and from a paddock at Fordell near Whanganui.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

ETYMOLOGY

robusta: Sturdy

Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

Life Cycle Comments

Long-lived perennial shrub

Reproduction

Probably vegetative from discarded paddles. Fruits are formed but it is not clear if viable seed is produced.

Seed

Seed may be produced.

Dispersal

Both wild occurrences probably arose from dumping of garden waste.

Tolerances

Very drought tolerant. The Port Hills occurrence is in a place which would get snow and severe frosts at times.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/opuntia-robusta/>



In cultivation, Auckland. Jan 2007.

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