

Prunus xdomestica

COMMON NAME

plum

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Prunus xdomestica L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. Near human settlements, waste places and forest margins

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Deciduous small tree up to about 6 m tall, sometimes forming thickets, usually not armed. Leaves up to 70 x 45 mm on petiole of 15-30 mm. Leaf margins serrulate, lamina hairy at frost and with at least some hairs remaining when mature. White or greenish-white flowers in small clusters. Fruit (plums) to about 45 mm long, green, yellow, red or blackish purple (both flesh and skin) with a smooth stone.

SIMILAR TAXA

The young shoots dull and hairy, mature leaves usually with at least some hairs on major veins and lower part of margin distinguish this species. There is considerable variation in the fruit of cultivated specimens.

FLOWERING

August, September

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

FRUITING

January, February

YEAR NATURALISED

1922

ORIGIN

Cultivated hybrid

Reason For Introduction

Agricultural

Reproduction

Can sucker to form small thickets, spread is predominantly by seed.

Seed

Viable seed in each plum.

Dispersal

people, birds.

Tolerances

Can tolerate strong frosts.



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MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/prunus-domestica/>