

Prunus lusitanica

COMMON NAME

Portugese laurel

FAMILY

Rosaceae

AUTHORITY

Prunus lusitanica L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Large evergreen tree to 7 m high. Leaves more or less elliptic 70-140 by 25-60 mm, and on short petioles 15-25 mm long, more or less purplish. Leaves glossy above and below, with slightly impressed veins above, leaf margins finely toothed. Inflorescence a fairly dense raceme of 47-77 white flowers. Fruit 10-12 mm long, ovoid, smooth glossy purplish black.

SIMILAR TAXA

With *P. laurocerasus*, *P. lusitanica* is in the sub genus *Laurocerasus* (Cherry Laurels) these are distinguished from other *Prunus* species by the evergreen leaves and pedicellate flowers. *P. lusitanica* can be distinguished from *P. laurocerasus* by the crenate-serrate leaf margin, more or less purplish petioles and the leaves usually smaller than the racemes.

FLOWERING

November, December

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

March-May

YEAR NATURALISED

1988

ORIGIN

Spain, Portugal, Azores



Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

Life Cycle Comments

Perennial.

Reproduction

Seed.

Seed

Yes

Dispersal

Seed are spread by birds (Webb et al 1988).

Tolerances

Young plants are shade tolerant.

MORE INFORMATION

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