

Symphytum grandiflorum

COMMON NAME

dwarf comfrey, creeping comfrey

SYNONYMS

Symphytum ibericum

FAMILY

Boraginaceae

AUTHORITY

Symphytum grandiflorum DC.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Perennial, evergreen; 30-45 cm tall; can form extensive ground cover by rhizomes; no tubers. Shade tolerant.

Leaves to 10 cm (lamina) + 6-8 cm petiole; upper surface bristly with antrorse curved hairs on bulbous bases; rough to touch; lower leaf surface with few hairs - mostly on veins. Inflorescence stems muricate and some variously directed hairs.

HABITAT

Gardens under trees and shrubs

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Inflorescences on erect stems and curling over, especially in flowering state. Corolla c. 2 cm long, pink in bud but becoming white; proximal half tubular; distal half \pm narrow campanulate. Style 2-2.3 cm long, white, often \pm exserted from corolla.

SIMILAR TAXA

Other *Symphytum* species but characterised by its pale cream pendulous flowers and rhizomatous habit.

FLOWERING

September-November

FLOWER COLOURS

Cream, White

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Easily grown by divided pieces in average, medium, well-drained soils in full sun to part shade. Best in moist, organically rich soils in part shade, but has respectable drought tolerance and can do reasonably well in dryish, shady locations. Tolerates close to full shade; can spread aggressively by creeping rhizomes. Moreover, once planted, comfrey can be very difficult to dig out because any small section of root left behind can sprout a new plant.

YEAR NATURALISED

2014



Flowers and foliage of rhizomatous plants, Esplanade, Palmerston North. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 26/09/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Flowers and a bumble bee; rhizomatous plants, Esplanade, Palmerston North. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 26/09/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.

ORIGIN

Eurasia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Tolerates heavy shade

First recorded as an adventive plant in New Zealand in November 2014.

ATTRIBUTION

Fact sheet prepared for NZPCN by Colin Ogle on 7 December 2014.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/symphytum-grandiflorum/>