

# Veronica filiformis

## COMMON NAME

creeping speedwell

## FAMILY

Plantaginaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Veronica filiformis* Sm.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Soft creeping herb, rooting at nodes; reniform hirsute leaves and crenate margins. Flowers on long pedicels (to 25 mm), pubescent; corolla c.12 mm diameter; calyx remaining after petal fall but fruit not developing in NZ.

## DISTRIBUTION

Very local in NZ, establishing from vegetative material only

## HABITAT

Lawns, gardens

## SIMILAR TAXA

Flower similar to *V. persica* but plant creeping with reniform (not pointed) leaves. *V. persica* has abundant fruit with divergent capsule lobes.

## FLOWER COLOURS

Blue, Violet/Purple

## FRUITING

No fruit known in NZ

## PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

rooted pieces

## YEAR NATURALISED

1981

## ORIGIN

Asia Minor, Crimea, Caucasia, N. Iran

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Maybe ornamental but probably accidental in soil with other plants

## ETYMOLOGY

**veronica:** Named after Saint Veronica, who gave Jesus her veil to wipe his brow as he carried the cross through Jerusalem, perhaps because the common name of this plant is 'speedwell'. The name Veronica is often believed to derive from the Latin *vera* 'truth' and *iconica* 'image', but it is actually derived from the Macedonian name Berenice which means 'bearer of victory'.

**filiformis:** From the Latin *filum* 'thread' and *forma* 'shape', meaning thread-shaped



*Veronica filiformis* - Cornwall Park, Auckland.  
Photographer: Mike Wilcox, Date taken: 13/12/2007, Licence: All rights reserved.



Flower with dark blue anthers; Bushy Park homestead garden. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 22/11/2016, Licence: CC BY-NC.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/veronica-filiformis/>