

Vitis vinifera

COMMON NAME

grape

FAMILY

Vitaceae

AUTHORITY

Vitis vinifera L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

VITVIN

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Around old gardens and dump sites, sometimes along roadsides.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Deciduous woody liane, climbing via tendrils (usually forked). The young shoots and leaves are greyish white or pale brown, mature leaves green above, whitish or pale grey tomentose below, up to 17x18cm, and coarsely toothed. The flowers are green and fragrant, berries 0.7-1.5cm diameter, black and sweet.

SIMILAR TAXA

Grapes are very distinctive plants. Only 1 species is recognised as naturalised in New Zealand, but many plants may not be *V. vinifera*. True *V. vinifera* has tendrils in every 3rd leaf. *V. labrusca* has tendrils in every node. Cultivated hybrids have been referred to as *V. labruscana* have intermittent tendrils.

FLOWERING

October, November, December

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

LIFE CYCLE

True *V. vinifera* is very susceptible to phylloxera. Reproduces mainly by stem layering (Webb et al., 1988). Fruit is freely produced but most wild spread is not by seed. Many of the cultivated grapes are actually hybrids which may affect spread from seed.

YEAR NATURALISED

1870

ORIGIN

Mediterranean

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Agricultural



Vitis vinifera. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Growing over *Leptospermum scoparium*. Dome Valley, Northland. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 10/03/2007, Licence: CC BY.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/vitis-vinifera/>