

Gomphocarpus physocarpus

COMMON NAME

Swan plant, balloon cotton bush

SYNONYMS

Asclepias physocarpa

FAMILY

Apocynaceae

AUTHORITY

Gomphocarpus physocarpus E.Mey.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Similar to *G. fruticosus*, but having more inflated pods (almost globose or spherical, not 'swan shaped') with a shorter stalk.

FLOWER COLOURS

White

FRUITING

Inflated, almost globose fruits

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

seed

YEAR NATURALISED

1993 (NZJBot 33:156)

ORIGIN

South Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental and perhaps as food for larvae of Monarch butterfly (*Danaus plexippus*)

TAXONOMIC NOTES

Previously in Asclepiadaceae.

POISONOUS PLANT

The tissues are full of a poisonous white milky latex making all parts of the plant toxic including the bladder-like fruits.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/gomphocarpus-physocarpus/>



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