

Hesperocyparis macrocarpa

COMMON NAME

macrocarpa

SYNONYMS

Cupressus macrocarpa (Hartw.) Bartel

FAMILY

Cupressaceae

AUTHORITY

Hesperocyparis macrocarpa Hartw.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Gymnosperms

NVS CODE

HESMAC

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. regenerating bush and scrub near planted trees and hedgerows.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Medium sized tree to about 36 metres. Has distinctive fluted trunk when mature, bark is thick, reddish brown beneath often becoming whitish on the surface. **Adult foliage** many small dark green scales closely appressed to the branchlets, but not flattened. **Juvenile foliage** more needle like, and not appressed. **Male cones** up to about 3 mm long, yellow and knobby arising on the tips of the branches. **Female cone** terminal, rosette-like at first, becoming a rounded brown cone with 8–14 scales when mature. **Seeds:** usually 10–20 per cone scale.

SIMILAR TAXA

The scales closely appressed on mature plants, but stems not becoming flattened. There are several *Hesperocyparis* and *Cupressus* species in cultivation in New Zealand but *H. macrocarpa* is by far the most common, and can be identified by the blunt leaves lacking resin glands, and the shining brown mature cones.

FLOWER COLOURS

No flowers

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

seed

YEAR NATURALISED

1904

ORIGIN

Monterey Peninsula, California, N. America

ETYMOLOGY

macrocarpa: Large fruit



Cupressus macrocarpa. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Cupressus macrocarpa. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

Reason For Introduction

Forestry

Life Cycle Comments

Occasional and scattered cultivation escape in the vicinity of planted trees (Webb et al 1988).

Reproduction

Seed.

Seed

At least 150 seeds per mature female cone, estimated at least 10 000 cones per mature tree.

Dispersal

People, wind, gravity.

Tolerances

seedlings are moderately shade-tolerant but do best on sunny banks.

NZPCN FACT SHEET CITATION

Please cite as: Ogle, C. (Year at time of access): *Hesperocyparis macrocarpa* Fact Sheet (content continuously updated). New Zealand Plant Conservation Network.

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hesperocyparis-macrocarpa/> (Date website was queried)

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/hesperocyparis-macrocarpa/>