

Ricinus communis

COMMON NAME

castor oil plant

FAMILY

Euphorbiaceae

AUTHORITY

Ricinus communis L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Castor oil plant is a small, spreading tree up to 4m tall. The leaves are large, soft and deeply lobed (20-40 cm diam.). The flowers are clustered in heads and the soft spiny capsules contain rectangular seeds up to 15 mm long. (West 1996)

SIMILAR TAXA

The NZ plants usually have purple leaves (Landcare Research 1999).

FLOWERING

December, January, February

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Red/Pink

FRUITING

not known

YEAR NATURALISED

1864

ORIGIN

Tropical Africa

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

POISONOUS PLANT

The mottled seeds are poisonous if eaten.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ricinus-communis/>



Ricinus communis showing growth form, Treeway, Mt Albert, Auckland. Photographer: Peter J. de Lange, Date taken: 08/06/2006, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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