

# Solanum diflorum

## COMMON NAME

false Jerusalem cherry

## FAMILY

Solanaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Solanum diflorum* Vell.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

SOLDIF

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Small unarmed shrub with stems to about 50 cm tall. The leaves are quite variable in size but can reach up to 14 x 8 cm, entire or with wavy margins. Hairs on young stems and very young leaves dense, becoming less scattered on older stems and leaves. Flowers are white and are solitary or in small clusters. The berry is scarlet or orange-red, round and up to about 1.5 cm diameter, containing a seed up to 3mm long.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Very similar to *S. pseudocapsicum* but can be distinguished by the hairs which are very dense on the young shoots and leaves but becoming scattered on older shoots and leaves. *S. pseudocapsicum* is almost always hairless.

## FLOWERING

January, February, March, April, May, June, July, August, September, October, November, December

## FLOWER COLOURS

White

## LIFE CYCLE

Spreads by seed which is dispersed by birds

## YEAR NATURALISED

1958

## ORIGIN

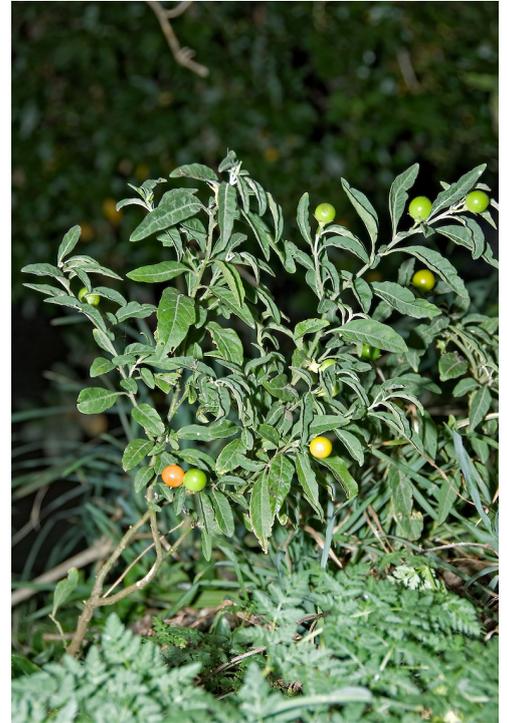
Temperate eastern S. America

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

## TOLERANCES

Appears to be quite shade tolerant and can establish under canopy.



Featherston, Wairarapa. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 02/06/2007, Licence: CC BY.



Fruit. Featherston, Wairarapa. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 02/06/2007, Licence: CC BY.

## ETYMOLOGY

**solanum:** Derivation uncertain - possibly from the Latin word sol, meaning “sun,” referring to its status as a plant of the sun. Another possibility is that the root was solare, meaning “to soothe,” or solamen, meaning “a comfort,” which would refer to the soothing effects of the plant upon ingestion.

## POISONOUS PLANT

The red-orange berries are poisonous if eaten.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/solanum-diflorum/>