

Solanum pseudocapsicum

COMMON NAME

Jerusalem cherry

FAMILY

Solanaceae

AUTHORITY

Solanum pseudocapsicum L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

SOLPSE

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Erect, unarmed shrub, glabrous or sometimes with few branched hairs on very young shoots; stems wiry, 40~120cm tall. Petiole to 2cm long, slender. Lamina 3~12 x 1~3cm, lanceolate or elliptic-lanceolate, glossy above; margins usu. undulate; base narrowly attenuate; apex obtuse or acute. Flowers 1~several; peduncle 0~8mm long; pedicels 5~10mm long, erect at fruiting. Calyx 4~5mm long; lobes lanceolate to ovate, slightly accrescent. Corolla approx. 15mm diam., white, glabrous; lobes oblong-ovate to triangular. Anthers 2.5~3mm long. Berry 1.5~2cm diam., globose, glossy, orange to scarlet, long-persistent; stone cells 0. Seeds approx. 3mm diam., suborbicular to reniform or obovoid, rather asymmetric; margin thickened. (-Webb et. al., 1988)

SIMILAR TAXA

A plant with attractive glossy orange or red berries around 1-2 cm diameter (Department of Conservation 1996).

FLOWERING

October, November, December, January, February, March, April, May

FLOWER COLOURS

White, Yellow

LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Seed is bird dispersed (Webb et al., 1988; Department of Conservation 1996). A plant that is induced by grazing (Department of Conservation 1996).

YEAR NATURALISED

1935

ORIGIN

Eastern Sth America

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental



Bartons Bush, Trentham, Upper Hutt.
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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 very poisonous.

MORE INFORMATION

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