

Wisteria sinensis

COMMON NAME

Wisteria

FAMILY

Fabaceae

AUTHORITY

Wisteria sinensis (Sims) Sweet

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Lianes & Related Trailing Plants - Dicotyledons

NVS CODE

WISSIN

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Terrestrial. waste places and scrub near cultivated plants.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Deciduous woody climber that can reach up to 30 m in length. Twigs are densely hairy when young, becoming more or less glabrous. Leaves also hairy when young, hairy on undersurface when mature. Compound leaves comprising 8-12 leaflets to 80 mm long in opposite pairs. Inflorescence a large raceme comprising many mauve to deep lilac flowers. Pods rarely produced, 10-15 cm long, can flattened brown seed.

SIMILAR TAXA

Wisteria is very familiar to gardeners. The deciduous foliage and long racemes of lilac pea-like flowers make it very distinctive. *Wisteria floribunda* is also cultivated - on this species the stems twine clockwise, stems twine anti-clockwise in *W. sinensis*. *W. venusta* is also very similar but the most common cultivar is white-flowered and the foliage is much darker when mature.

FLOWERING

October, November, December, January, February

FLOWER COLOURS

Violet/Purple

LIFE CYCLE

Mostly vegetative reproduction through layering and suckering. Seed set is recorded but rare. Dispersed by people dumping garden waste.

YEAR NATURALISED

1981

ORIGIN

E. Asia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental



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POISONOUS PLANT

The pods and seeds of this plant are poisonous.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/wisteria-sinensis/>