

Olearia fragrantissima

FRAGRANT TREE DAISY

Olearia fragrantissima is one of eight rare *Olearia* species included in the Small-leaved Tree Daisy National Recovery Plan. A separate fact sheet is available for each species. The aim of the factsheets is to encourage public awareness of these distinctive New Zealand species and to find compatible ways of managing the places where they exist. A first step towards this is to help people recognise the plants and take an interest in their welfare.

Description

Olearia fragrantissima is a deciduous shrub or tree to 12 m tall, with a multi-branched or single-leadered, upright architecture, and ribbon-like, fawn bark that peels off in strips from the trunk and older branches. Twigs and branches are wiry, coppery red to dark brown, and zig-zagging. It has pale green, alternate leaves that are thin and oval in shape, 10 - 30 x 5 - 10 mm in size. Cream to yellow, peach scented, clusters of small flowers appear between October and December.

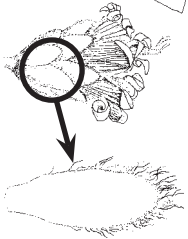
ated talus slopes and riparian sites that provide a broken canopy which it can occupy. It also grows in dry shrubland and scrub in exposed coastal situations. The habitat tends to be warm sites on fertile soils. It is most commonly found in diverse mixed forest containing kowhai, ribbonwood, lemonwood, broadleaf, marbleleaf and *Coprosma* sp.

Similar Plants

The largish leaves mean it has similarities only with *Olearia hectorii* in the *Olearia* group. Native fuchsia and *Olearia avicenniifolia* have similar bark.

Habitat

Olearia fragrantissima occupies lowland and hill country sites within the eastern South Island. It is found on rocky areas and associ-



Sketches not to scale



Distribution

Olearia fragrantissima is restricted to the South Island, from Banks Peninsula to Southland.

Population Size

Total population size is estimated to be in excess of 10 000 plants, known from approximately 60 sites. Two populations exceed 1,000 plants, the remainder range from single individuals to several hundred plants. The more natural sites including the larger populations are generally thought to have adequate regeneration and recruitment. However regeneration is often limited in the more modified sites.

National Threat Status and Threats

Sparse. Threats include habitat loss, weed invasion, lack of seedling recruitment and animal browsing.

How Can I help?

Learn to recognise the plant.

Tell staff at the Department of Conservation if you discover populations of the plant or suspect you have.

Explore ways to protect populations of the plant through covenanting, fencing weed control and supplementary planting.



Use locally sourced plants in gardens, shelterbelts and revegetation projects.

Further Information

For More information visit the New Zealand Plant Conservation web site: www.nzpcn.org.nz

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