

# Bartlettina (*Bartlettina sordida*)



*Foliage and flowers*



*Flowers*

Bartlettina is an erect, evergreen shrub that grows up to 2m tall, and is only found in a few places in the North Island. It is a garden escape that now grows in forest margins, especially in shady, wet places. It is susceptible to frosts.

The plant's younger stems have dense, reddish-purple striped hairs while the mature stems are almost hairless. Its large, oval leaves are also densely hairy, with purple undersides and dark green upper surfaces with reddish veins. Purple-red flowers appear in fragrant, fluffy bunches from November to January, and seeds are produced in profusion. Bartlettina is spread by its wind-borne seeds, and locally by rooting at the nodes of stems trailing along the ground.

Small plants should be grubbed out or hand pulled. Large plants or infestations should be treated with herbicide.

**Bartlettina is only occasionally found in the wild in New Zealand, but could spread and become more of a problem, especially in conservation areas. Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.**