

# Himalayan Dogwood

## David Medway

The Himalayan Dogwood (*Cornus capitata*: Family Cornaceae) is a hardy, small to medium-sized evergreen tree, native to the Himalaya region. Its fruits, which are borne in great profusion, generally begin to ripen in early autumn. They are round and strawberry-like, hence the frequently-used alternative common name of Strawberry Tree for this plant. The fruits are green at first, becoming a deep orange-red when mature.

The Himalayan Dogwood was well-established in Pukekura Park by at least 1925 (*Taranaki Herald* 19 September 1925). Many still grow throughout the Park, and have ripe fruits now (April – May). These fruits are a principal and valuable food for a variety of birds, both native and introduced, in autumn-early winter (see: [Himalayan Dogwoods as a Food Source for Birds](#)). Himalayan Dogwoods have long been recognised as a seasonal source of food for birds in the Park. They are often referred to in that regard in “Out in the Park” articles which appeared weekly in the *Daily News* of New Plymouth from November 1964 until at least the end of January 1980.

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*Himalayan Dogwood photos : click on a photo to view a larger image, use Back button to return*

Pukekura Park—April 2008



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