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Myosotidium hortensia

[Synonyms : *Myosotidium nobile*, *Myosotis hortensia*]

CHATHAM ISLAND FORGET-ME-NOT is a biennial or perennial. Native to Chatham Island (east of New Zealand) it has many small, purple-eyed, dark or pale blue flowers. It is also known as Chatham forget-me-not, Chatham Island lily, Giant forget-me-not, and *Kopukapuka* (Maori).

It is a protected species on the nearby Pitt Island. (In 1998 the World Conservation Monitoring Centre issued the first global list (referred to colloquially as the 'Red List') of threatened plants of which this is one.)

Hortensia means 'of gardens'.

A combination of local fires, poor drainage and new development is said to have led to Chatham Island forget-me-not's inclusion on at risk lists as it is now thought to be rare. It has also been threatened with extinction after grazing by the sheep and pigs introduced to Chatham Island for the settlers there in the 1860s.

The plant is now a cultivated ornamental.