

# Veronica sect. *Hebe*

***Veronica** sect. *Hebe* is a group of plants within the genus *Veronica*, native to New Zealand, Rapa in French Polynesia, the Falkland Islands and South America. It was formerly treated as the separate genus ***Hebe*** (/ˈhiːbiː/<sup>[1]</sup>). It includes about 90 species. Almost all species occur in New Zealand, apart from *Veronica rapensis* (endemic to Rapa) and *Veronica salicifolia*, found in South America. It is named after the Greek goddess of youth, *Hebe*. Informally, species in the section may be called **shrubby veronicas** or **hebes**.*

Hebes are widely grown as ornamental plants (see *Cultivation* below).

## Description

Species in *Veronica* sect. *Hebe* have four perpendicular rows of *leaves* in opposite *decussate* pairs. The *flowers* are *perfect*, the *corolla* usually has four slightly unequal lobes, the flower has two *stamens* and a long *style*. Flowers are arranged in a *spiked inflorescence*. Identification of species is difficult, especially if they are not in flower. The plants range in size from dwarf shrubs to small trees up to 7 metres (23 feet), and are distributed from coastal to *alpine* ecosystems. Large-leaved species are normally found on the coast, in lowland scrub and along forest margins. At higher altitudes smaller-leaved species grow, and in alpine areas there are whipcord species with leaves reduced to thick scales.

## Taxonomy

There are differing classifications for the genus. The former genus *Hebe*, together with the related Australasian genera *Chionohebe*, *Derwentia*, *Detzneria*, *Parahebe*, *Heliohebe* and *Leonohebe* are now included in the larger genus *Veronica* (hence the common name shrubby veronicas).<sup>[2][3][4]</sup>

## Species

About 90–100 species were formerly placed in *Hebe* and have been moved to *Veronica*, including:

- Hebe acutiflora* → *Veronica rivalis*
- Hebe albicans* → *Veronica albicans*
- Hebe amplexicaulis* → *Veronica amplexicaulis*

### Veronica sect. *Hebe*



Veronica 'Waireka'

#### Scientific classification

Kingdom:	<span><span>Plantae</span></span>
<i>Clade</i> :	<span><span>Tracheophytes</span></span>
<i>Clade</i> :	<span><span>Angiosperms</span></span>
<i>Clade</i> :	<span><span>Eudicots</span></span>
<i>Clade</i> :	<span><span>Asterids</span></span>
Order:	<span><span>Lamiales</span></span>
Family:	<span><span>Plantaginaceae</span></span>
Genus:	<span><span><i>Veronica</i></span></span>
Subgenus:	<span><span><i>Veronica</i> subg. <i>Pseudoveronica</i></span></span>
Section:	<span><span><i>Veronica</i> sect. <i>Hebe</i></span></span> <p>(Juss.) G.Don</p>

#### Species

See text.

- *Hebe arganthera* → *Veronica arganthera*
- *Hebe armstrongii* → *Veronica armstrongii*
- *Hebe barkeri* → *Veronica barkeri*
- *Hebe bishopiana* → *Veronica bishopiana*
- *Hebe brachysiphon* → *Veronica brachysiphon*
- *Hebe breviracemosa* → *Veronica breviracemosa*
- *Hebe brevifolia* → *Veronica punicea*
- *Hebe buchananii* → *Veronica buchananii*
- *Hebe canterburiensis* → *Veronica canterburiensis*
- *Hebe carnosula* → *Veronica baylyi*
- *Hebe chathamica* → *Veronica chathamica*
- *Hebe cheesmannii* → *Veronica quadrifaria*
- *Hebe ciliolata* → *Veronica ciliolata*
- *Hebe colensoi* → *Veronica colensoi*
- *Hebe cupressoides* → *Veronica cupressoides*
- *Hebe decumbens* → *Veronica decumbens*
- *Hebe dieffenbachii* → *Veronica dieffenbachii*
- *Hebe diosmifolia* → *Veronica diosmifolia*
- *Hebe elliptica* → *Veronica elliptica*
- *Hebe epacridea* → *Veronica epacridea*
- *Hebe gibbsii* → *Veronica gibbsii*
- *Hebe glaucophylla* → *Veronica glaucophylla*
- *Hebe gracillima* → *Veronica leiophylla*
- *Hebe haastii* → *Veronica haastii*
- *Hebe hectorii* → *Veronica hectorii*
- *Hebe hulkeana* → *Veronica hulkeana*
- *Hebe lavaudiana* → *Veronica lavaudiana*
- *Hebe leiophylla* → *Veronica leiophylla*
- *Hebe ligustrifolia* → *Veronica ligustrifolia*
- *Hebe lycopodioides* → *Veronica lycopodioides*
- *Hebe macrantha* → *Veronica macrantha*
- *Hebe matthewsii* → *Veronica matthewsii*
- *Hebe obtusata* → *Veronica obtusata*
- *Hebe ochracea* → *Veronica ochracea*
- *Hebe odora* → *Veronica odora*
- *Hebe parviflora* → *Veronica parviflora*
- *Hebe pauciramosa* → *Veronica pauciramosa*
- *Hebe pauciramosa* var. *masoniae* → *Veronica masoniae*
- *Hebe pimeleoides* → *Veronica pimeleoides*
- *Hebe pinguifolia* → *Veronica pinguifolia*
- *Hebe propinqua* → *Veronica propinqua*
- *Hebe rakaiensis* → *Veronica rakaiensis*
- *Hebe raoulii* → *Veronica raoulii*



*Veronica pinguifolia*



*Veronica speciosa*

- *Hebe recurva* was an unplaced name in [Plants of the World Online](#), as of October 2022;<sup>[5]</sup> see [Veronica recurva](#)
- *Hebe salicifolia* → [Veronica salicifolia](#)
- *Hebe salicornioides* → [Veronica salicornioides](#)
- *Hebe speciosa* → [Veronica speciosa](#)
- *Hebe stricta* → [Veronica stricta](#)
- *Hebe subalpina* → [Veronica subalpina](#)
- *Hebe subsimilis* → [Veronica tetragona](#) subsp. *subsimilis*
- *Hebe tetragona* → [Veronica tetragona](#)
- *Hebe tetrasticha* → [Veronica tetrasticha](#)
- *Hebe topiaria* → [Veronica topiaria](#)
- *Hebe traversii* → [Veronica traversii](#)
- *Hebe trisepala* → [Veronica diosmifolia](#)
- *Hebe venustula* → [Veronica venustula](#)
- *Hebe vernicosa* → [Veronica vernicosa](#)

## Cultivation

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Hebes are valued in gardens in [temperate](#) climates as [evergreen](#) shrubs with decorative (sometimes [variegated](#)) leaves. The flowers, in shades of blue, purple, pink or white, appear throughout summer and autumn. Their ability to withstand salt-laden winds makes them especially suited to coastal areas, for instance the South West of England, where they are often grown as hedges. [Prostrate](#) varieties can be used as [groundcover](#).<sup>[6][7]</sup>

Hebes cope with most soil types, and can be [propagated](#) easily from both seed and [cuttings](#). Wild [hybrids](#) in section *Hebe* are uncommon; however, there are many cultivated hybrids, such as *Veronica* × *franciscana*.

The Hebe Society, formed in 1985 under the auspices of the British [Royal Horticultural Society](#), promotes the cultivation and conservation of hebes and other [New Zealand native plants](#).

## AGM cultivars

The following [cultivars](#) have gained the Royal Horticultural Society's [Award of Garden Merit](#):<sup>[8]</sup>

- *V. albicans*<sup>[9]</sup> (white, 1m)
- 'Blue Clouds'<sup>[10]</sup> (pale blue, 1m)
- 'Caledonia'<sup>[11]</sup> (violet, 1m)
- 'Emerald Gem'<sup>[12]</sup> (white, 0.3m)
- 'Great Orme'<sup>[13]</sup> (pink/white, 1.2m)
- *V. macrantha* <sup>[14]</sup>
- 'Margret' <sup>[15]</sup> (light blue, 0.5m)
- 'Midsummer Beauty'<sup>[16]</sup> (lilac/white, 2.5m)
- 'Mrs Winder'<sup>[17]</sup> (violet-blue, 1m)
- 'Neil's Choice'<sup>[18]</sup> (violet, 1.2m)
- 'Nicola's Blush'<sup>[19]</sup> (pink/white, 1m)

- *H. ochracea* 'James Stirling'<sup>[20]</sup> (white, 0.5m)
- 'Oratia Beauty'<sup>[21]</sup> (pink/white, 0.75m)
- 'Pascal'<sup>[22]</sup> (violet-blue, 0.5m)
- 'Pewter Dome'<sup>[23]</sup> (white, 0.5m)
- *V. pimeloides* 'Quicksilver'<sup>[24]</sup> (pale violet, 0.5m)
- *V. pinguifolia* 'Pagei'<sup>[25]</sup> (white, 0.3m)
- 'Pink Elephant' <sup>[26]</sup> (white, 0.5m)
- *V. rakaiensis*<sup>[27]</sup> (white, 1m)
- *V. recurva* 'Boughton Silver'<sup>[28]</sup> (white, 1m)
- 'Red Edge'<sup>[29]</sup> (mauve/white, 0.5m)
- 'Sapphire'<sup>[30]</sup> (mauve, 1.5m)
- 'Silver Queen'<sup>[31]</sup> (mauve, 1m)
- *V. topiaria*<sup>[32]</sup> (white, 0.5m)
- *V. vernicosa*<sup>[33]</sup> (white, 0.5m)
- 'Wingletye'<sup>[34]</sup> (mauve, 0.5m)
- 'Wiri Dawn'<sup>[35]</sup> (pale pink, 0.5m)
- 'Youngii'<sup>[36]</sup> (violet/white, 0.2m)

## Gallery



*Veronica speciosa*



*Veronica pinguifolia*



*Veronica buchananii*



*Veronica  
decumbens*



Flowers of *Veronica*  
*x franciscana*



Flowers of *Veronica*  
*x franciscana*

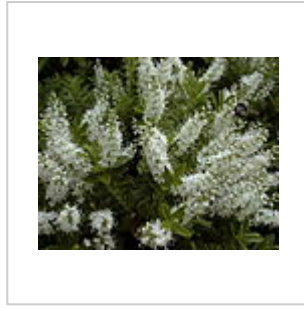


*Veronica  
franciscana* *x*  
(Blue Gem)

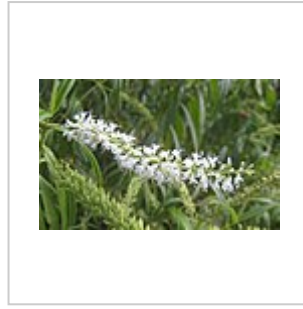




*Veronica albicans*



*Veronica rakaiensis*




*Veronica stricta*

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## External links

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