

Amaranthus spinosus

COMMON NAME

spiny amaranth

FAMILY

Amaranthaceae

AUTHORITY

Amaranthus spinosus L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

SIMILAR TAXA

Stems upright, branched, up to 90 cm tall, reddish, bearing spines at the bases of the leaf stalks. Leaves alternate, simple, dull green, ovate-lanceolate to ovate. Flowers small, green, in numerous long spikes. Terminal spike often wholly or chiefly staminate; axillary flower clusters mostly pistillate (Wax, Fawcett and Isely 1981).

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

YEAR NATURALISED

1975

ORIGIN

N. America, Europe

ETYMOLOGY

amaranthus: From the Greek a- 'without' or 'lacking' and maraino 'to fade', meaning unfading and referring to the durability of the flowers of some species

spinosus: Spiny

Seed

Seeds egg-shaped, shiny black, notched at one end, about 0.7 to 1 mm wide (Wax, Fawcett and Isely 1981).

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/amaranthus-spinosus/>

