

Euphorbia lathyrus

COMMON NAME

caper spurge

SYNONYMS

Euphorbia lathyrus L.

FAMILY

Euphorbiaceae

AUTHORITY

Euphorbia lathyrus L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

NVS CODE

EUPLAT

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

A hairless, bluish-green biennial plant growing to a height of 1 - 1.5 metres.

FLOWERING

Summer months

FLOWER COLOURS

Green, Yellow

YEAR NATURALISED

1870

ORIGIN

E. and C. Mediterranean but widely naturalised in Western Europe.

ETYMOLOGY

euphorbia: After Euphorbus, a Greek physician who served King Juba of Numidia in 12BC. Juba named a cactus to honour Euphorbus and later Linnaeus named the entire genus after the physician.

POISONOUS PLANT:

All species of Euphorbia are poisonous especially this which can cause blindness in people removing it by hand from the garden and then rubbing their eyes.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/euphorbia-lathyrus/>



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