

Euphorbia milii var. splendens

COMMON NAME

crown of thorns

FAMILY

Euphorbiaceae

AUTHORITY

Euphorbia milii var. splendens (Hook.) Ursh et Leandri

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

HABITAT

Known from one site on Rangitoto Island, where it is a minor cultivation escape.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

YEAR NATURALISED

1993

ORIGIN

Madagascar

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.

splendens: Splendid

Reason For Introduction

Horticultural

Life Cycle Comments

Perennial shrub

Reproduction

In New Zealand exclusively by vegetative spread and stem disarticulation

Seed

Not produced in New Zealand

Dispersal

Established on Rangitoto from disarticulated stem pieces, some of which may have been deliberately discarded.

Tolerances

Drought tolerant. Dislikes cold, frost and snow.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/euphorbia-milii-var-splendens/>

