

Euphorbia myrsinites

COMMON NAME

donkey-tail spurge, myrtle spurge, blue spurge

FAMILY

Euphorbiaceae

AUTHORITY

Euphorbia myrsinites L.

FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

An evergreen perennial with sprawling stems 20–40 cm long. Dense, spirally arranged leaves are fleshy, pale glaucous (blue-green), 1–2 cm long.

FLOWER COLOURS

Green

YEAR NATURALISED

2008

ORIGIN

From Italy eastwards to the Balkans, Crimea and Turkey

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental

TOLERANCES

Drought

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.

MORE INFORMATION

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



Planted in garden near Whanganui (self-sown seedlings nearby). Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 04/03/2018, Licence: CC BY-NC.



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