

# Amaranthus spinosus

## COMMON NAMES

spiny amaranth

## BIOSTATUS

Exotic

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## CATEGORY

Vascular

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green

## 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).

## GENUS

Amaranthus

## FAMILY

Amaranthaceae

## AUTHORITY

Amaranthus spinosus L.

## ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

## YEAR NATURALISED

1975

## ORIGIN

N. America, Europe

## LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

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

## 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

## MORE INFORMATION

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

## PDF DATE

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