

# Euphorbia lathyris

## COMMON NAME

caper spurge

## SYNONYMS

*Euphorbia lathyris* L.

## FAMILY

Euphorbiaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Euphorbia lathyris* L.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

EUPLAT

## FEATURES

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-lathyris/>



Miranda, Jan. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



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