

# Lupinus polyphyllus

## COMMON NAME

Russell lupin

## FAMILY

Fabaceae

## AUTHORITY

Lupinus polyphyllus Lindl.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

LUPPOL

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial. Establishes in waste places and lowland areas, streams, riverbeds and disturbed montane to subalpine areas.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herbaceous perennial; stems sparsely to moderately hairy, erect, branched from base. Leaflets 8~15, usu. glabrous above, sparsely to moderately sericeous below, narrowly elliptic to oblanceolate, acute to acuminate, 30-130 x 10-30 mm; stipules oblong-lanceolate, 15~35 mm long. Infl. 15-60 cm tall, many-flowered; peduncle up to 15 cm long. Lower flowers alternate; upper flowers subverticillate; pedicels 5-14mm long. Calyx densely hairy; upper lip shallowly 2-toothed; lower lip slightly longer, entire. Corolla blue, purple, pink, orange, yellow or white, often of 2 colours, slightly scented if at all, 12-20 mm long. Pod densely villous, 5-10-seeded, 30-50 mm long; seeds ellipsoid, smooth, dark brown and somewhat mottled, approx. 2 mm long. (Webb et al., 1988)

## FLOWERING

September, October, November, December, January, February

## FLOWER COLOURS

Lilac, Purple, Red/Pink, White, Yellow

## LIFE CYCLE

Perennial. Non vegetatively spreading perennial with some plants reaching 50 years (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). Germination of seed occurs in autumn and spring (ibid.). Seed is produced at 200-1 000 kg/ha. Seeds remain viable for 10 or more years (ibid.). Explosive mechanism, humans, tourists, waterways (particularly in floods) (ibid.).

## YEAR NATURALISED

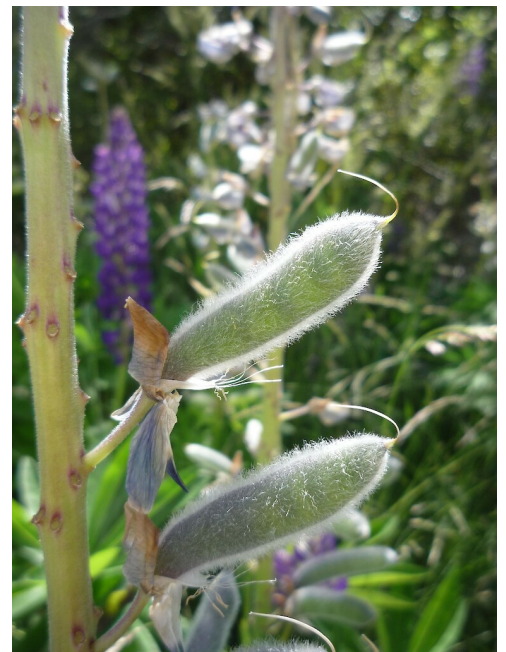
1958

## ORIGIN

N. America



Kinlock. Photographer: John Barkla, Licence: CC BY.



Seed pods, Omarama, Canterbury.  
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### **REASON FOR INTRODUCTION**

Ornamental; now seriously invasive in South Canterbury, especially in gravel river beds and on road verges. See article on [NZ Geographic magazine](#).

### **TOLERANCES**

Highly tolerant of frost and poor drainage; slightly tolerant of shade and intolerant of drought. Can resprout from the base after physical damage and grazing (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

### **POISONOUS PLANT**

The seed are poisonous if they are chewed or crushed before eating.

### **MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lupinus-polyphyllus/>