



# Weeds To Watch Out For

Wanganui Conservancy Field Guide

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Main Photo: M. Hilton

Inset Photo: N. Devon, UK

Weeds to watch out for - Wanganui Conservancy

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## Sea Spurge

*Euphorbia paralias*

Euphorbiaceae

### Description

Small, blue-green dune shrub, up to 70cm high. The multiple stems are covered in small, closely packed leaves. Small, green flowers are situated at the end of the stems and produced from September through to March. Can be distinguished from the native *E. glauca* by its green cyathium (cup-like structure that surrounds the flowers); *E. glauca* has deep red cyathia with purple glands.

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### Where is it found?

Grows on beaches and coastal dune systems. Originated in Europe and the Mediterranean, and is known to be a weed in Australia.

### Why is it a problem?

Not currently known anywhere in New Zealand, but seeds may survive months or years in sea water and are likely to float across the Tasman Sea. Very tolerant of saline conditions.

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