

**Euphorbia paralias*

SEA SPURGE

L.

Flowering period: October–June.

Description: Perennial to 60 cm with one to many single, erect stems arising from a woody base that release a toxic milky sap when damaged or leaves are removed. Leaves grey green to dull green, numerous, overlapping and spaced uniformly along the stems, 5–30 mm long, 2–15 mm wide, mostly oblong, often deciduous during prolonged dry periods. Flowers in distinctive single, terminal clusters.

Distribution: Widespread and locally common on foredunes where the plant will co-occur with spinifex, cakile and marram grass. Occurs from Cape Arid to north of Perth, Garden and Rottnest Islands after being recorded in 1927 from near Dunsborough. Native to the Mediterranean region.

Control methods: Wiping or spraying with a non-selective herbicide or manual removal and follow-up monitoring to ensure no seedlings appear.

Notes: As is characteristic for the family Euphorbiaceae that comprises noted garden plants such as poinsettia, the plants produce a white, latex-like toxic sap when any part of the plant is damaged or leaves are removed. This is thought to prevent grazing and also to seal wounds to stop developing rot. Distinguished from Geraldton carnation weed in being only found in active or mobile dunes and along the strand, leaves with intact leaf margins and distinctive basal growth of erect single stems.



Habit



Habit



Flowers



Distribution