

**\**Euphorbia terracina***

GERALDTON CARNATION WEED

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**Flowering period:** August–October.**Description:** Annual to perennial (when conditions remain sufficiently moist for the plant to survive the summer) to 80 cm high, green to red. Leaves grey-green to bluish green, alternately arranged along the stem, linear to oblong 1–6 cm long, 2–8 mm wide with finely toothed margins. Flowers in cup-like terminal clusters that terminate the branches.**Distribution:** A mostly coastal species, widespread and locally very common from Geraldton to Esperance and islands but often restricted to alkaline soils. Grows in protected areas and swales and secondary dunes where the plant can quickly dominate and overgrow native vegetation. Native to the Mediterranean region.**Control methods:** Wiping or spraying with a non-selective herbicide or manual removal. Eradication may take a number of years of dedicated control to deplete the long-lived soil seed bank. See Notes.**Notes:** A very highly pernicious weed that is difficult to control due to its long-lived physically dormant soil seed bank. Thus, the species can reside for a decade or longer in the soil seed bank and will emerge in response to disturbance or high rainfall event. As is characteristic for the family Euphorbiaceae, all parts of the plant produce a toxic, milky sap if damaged, providing the plant with protection from grazing. Avoid contact with the milky sap and immediately wash an affected area and avoid eye contact.



Habit



Habit



Seedlings



Distribution