*Lupinus consentinii Guss.

BLUE LUPIN

Flowering period: August-November.

Description: Erect, annual herbaceous plant to 90 cm tall. Leaves comprising nine to 14 leaflets, 25–70 mm long, 5–15 mm wide and distinctly hairy on both sides. Flowers terminal, 5–15 cm long, with flowers in whorls followed by 4–6 cm long, hairy pods that dry, split and release three to six white with brown marked, more or less circular seeds up to 9 mm across. All parts of the plant contain a toxic alkaloid that protects the plant from grazing and seed predation.

Distribution: Widespread throughout south-west Australia, abundant in areas with calcareous soils and particularly following disturbance such as the Spearwood Sand system. A vigorous weed of sheltered areas.

Control methods: Manual removal or direct application of a broadleaf or general herbicide.

Notes: The species has a long-lived soil seed bank that can remain viable for 12 years or more. The species occurs in secondary dunes and uncommon in near-shore areas. If plants appear remove before seeding to prevent the build up of a soil seed bank.



Habit



Distribution