

How can I help?

Community action is the most effective control for Sea Spurge. By joining a group such as Landcare or Coastcare, you can help to control this beach invader.

Sea Spurge is very easy to remove by hand, but you must ensure that you get the entire taproot. To prevent seed dispersal, place plants in a bag and dispose of at a tip.

Follow up your Work

Following up your initial efforts is the best way to make sure that you have cleared your beach of Sea Spurge. Regularly inspect your beach for outbreaks of Sea Spurge. New infestations are generally small and easy to control.

Chemical control is for qualified operators only. Please contact your Local Control Authority for information about chemical usage on Sea Spurge.



Warning

The broken stems of Sea Spurge ooze a toxic milky sap. This sap may irritate the skin and is painful if brought into contact with the eyes. Please follow these guidelines for your own health & safety:

- Wear strong plastic coated gloves
- Wear long protective clothing
- Wear protective eye glasses and
- Remember to wash your hands after handling Sea Spurge.

Need more information?

Additional information on Sea Spurge can be obtained from:

- Your local Council
- NSW National Parks & Wildlife Service
- Landcare
- Bushcare
- Coastcare.

Otherwise check the Weeds of the South Coast web site at: www.esc.nsw.au/weeds



Have you seen this **INVADER** of South Coast Beaches?



An **Invasive Problem**

Sea Spurge (*Euphorbia paralias*) is an invasive beach weed that originated from Europe. Sea Spurge was probably introduced to Australia in ships' ballast water about 70 years ago. The plant first appeared in Western Australia and is now found throughout southeastern Australia, including Tasmania and the islands of Bass Strait. In the past 20 years, it has colonised beaches along the NSW South Coast and is progressively working its way north.

Why is Sea Spurge a problem?

Sea Spurge can produce up to 5,000 salt-tolerant seeds. These seeds can survive for a number of years on ocean currents that spread them from beach to beach. A Sea Spurge colony will spread rapidly as soon as a beach is invaded. If left uncontrolled, Sea Spurge will swamp entire beaches and replace our native vegetation.

A large colony of Sea Spurge will create a dense mass of vegetation and alter the structure of a beach. This is a problem for the endangered Hooded Plovers and other nesting shore birds that use open sand spits for nesting.

What does Sea Spurge **look like?**

Sea Spurge is a small leafy shrub that is a pale green in colour. The plant grows to about 70cm in height and has multiple stems covered in small tightly packed leaves. Small green flowers appear at the end of the stems and bloom between September and May.



sea
SPURGE



Where does Sea Spurge **Grow?**

Sea Spurge grows among native Spinifex grass and other native plants. This zone includes the dune fringe and beach strand just above the high tide mark. Once established, it will form dense clusters that exclude native vegetation.



Where has Sea Spurge **invaded?**

Infestations of Sea Spurge have caused major environmental problems in Tasmania and Victoria. It is gradually working its way north and NSW South Coast beaches are on the frontline of defence. As residents of the NSW South Coast, you are in a strong position to help prevent Sea Spurge from taking a hold of our beaches.

You can expect to find Sea Spurge on any oceanic beach on the South Coast. This includes Council beaches and National Parks.

