

Weed of the Month - Friends of Lochiel Park

“WANTED DEAD NOT ALIVE”

Prostrate spurge, red skeleton weed, spotted spurge.
bot. name - *Euphorbia prostrata*, *E. maculata*.

https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euphorbia_prostrata

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Description :- Red Skeleton Weed

Euphorbia prostrata & *E. maculata* are annual mat forming spreading plants, producing slender stems up to approximately 20 centimetres long, sometimes purple-tinted in colour. The oval-shaped leaves are up to one centimetre long with finely toothed edges and one species often has dark red spots on the leaves. The flowers are tiny and white. For interest there are four male flowers and a single female flower, the latter developing into a lobed, hairy fruit one to two millimetres wide, the stems produce a milky sap and are softly hairy.

This weed is very prolific and is currently growing vigorously generally growing at the edges of paths and roadways where the seeds are blown or washed by run off.

Now is a good time to either dig it out and dispose of in your green bin, or spray with herbicide. Mulching garden areas helps to prevent seed germination as it prefers bare soil.

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