

# Pride of Madeira

*Echium candicans*

## What does it look like?

*Echium candicans*, also known as *Echium fastuosum* is a large exotic herbaceous perennial shrub that forms a rosette in its first year of growth, with woody flowering stalks forming in the following years. It will usually grow 1-2m in height.

Bark is pale and peels off stems. Long, pointed, velvety silvery green leaves up to 20cm by 5.5cm reduce in size the further up the plant they are positioned.

Flower inflorescences generally reach 10 to 25cm, with small blue or purple coloured flowers that appear from spring to summer, and are popular with bees and butterflies (sources: Wikipedia, NZ Flora).

The species is popular in gardens, particularly in coastal areas as it is salt and drought tolerant, although not frost tolerant (Gardenia.net).



## Why is it a problem?

With its hardy characteristics, Pride of Madeira has become an invasive species in coastal areas, on roadside verges and other drier areas throughout New Zealand. (source: Wikipedia)

It is an invasive species in California, and in Australia is listed as a potential risk on the Victorian DEECA advisory list of environmental weeds.

The plant is toxic to humans and animals, and the leaves may cause skin irritation (source: Queensland Poisons Information Centre).

## Control Methods

### Herbicide control

Stump swab (all year round) using picloram gel, or,

Spray using a product containing 100g picloram+300g triclopyr/L at 6ml/L water, or with triclopyr 600 EC at 6ml/L water.

CAUTION: When using any herbicide or pesticide, PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

## Related Links

NZ Flora <https://www.nzflora.info/factsheet/Taxon/Echium-candicans.html>

Wikipedia [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Echium\\_candicans](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Echium_candicans)

Gardenia website <https://www.gardenia.net/plant/echium-candicans-pride-of-madeira>

Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, VIC, Australia <https://www.deeca.vic.gov.au/search?collection=delwp-meta&f.Type%7CY=&query=echium>

Queensland Poisons Information Centre <https://www.poisonsinfo.health.qld.gov.au/plants-and-mushrooms/pride-of-madiera-echium-candicans>