

# Blue spur flower

## *Plectranthus ecklonii*

### Family

Lamiaceae (mint)

### Also known as

Plectranthus

### Where is it originally from?

East and South Africa

### What does it look like?

Erect shrub (<2-3 m tall) with young stems covered in short, fine hairs. Oval leaves (6-17 x 3-8 cm) are covered with short fine hairs and dotted with red glands above and below, and are irregularly serrated along the edges. Loose, erect, flowerheads (<30 cm tall) covered in small, tubular, purplish-blue violet flowers (10-15 mm long) appear from December to May, and are followed by tiny brown nutlets.

### Are there any similar species?

*Plectranthus grandis* is hairy and has blue flowers. *P. mahonii* is also similar.

### Why is it weedy?

Moderately long-lived and tolerates semi-shade, damp, and high to moderate temperatures.

### How does it spread?

Produces few seeds, with most new plants forming from stem fragments spread during soil movement and vegetation dumping.

### What damage does it do?

Forms dense stands, prevents the establishment of native plant seedlings and can lead to subsequent invasion of infested areas by weedy vines.

### Which habitats is it likely to invade?

Heavily disturbed bush and shrubland, and bush margins especially in northern areas.

### What can I do to get rid of it?

Easy to control.

1. Dig out (all year round): Dispose of at a refuse transfer station or burn or bury deeply.
2. Cut down and paint stump (all year round): glyphosate (200ml/L) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (1g/L) or triclopyr 600 EC (100ml/L) or triclopyr 120g/L (500ml/L).
3. Spray (all year round): glyphosate (10ml/L + penetrant) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (10g/100L + penetrant (spraygun) or metsulfuron-methyl 600g/kg (2g/10L + penetrant (knapsack)) or triclopyr 600 EC (30ml/10L) or triclopyr 120g/L (15ml/1L).

CAUTION: When using any herbicide or pesticide, PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and directions for the purchase, use and storage of the product, are followed and adhered to.

### What can I do to stop it coming back?

Cut stems resprout. Follow up within 3-6 months to kill resprouted stems. Replant bare sites.



[www.weedbusters.org.nz](http://www.weedbusters.org.nz)



Photo: Carolyn Lewis



Photo: Trevor James

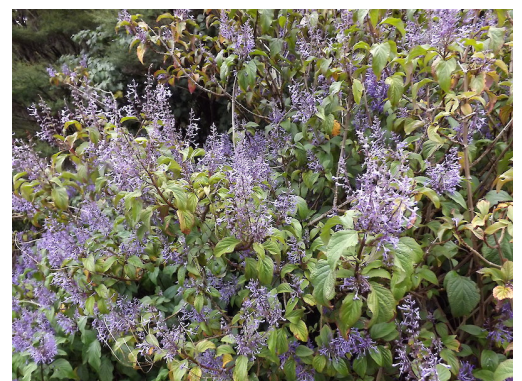


Photo: Carolyn Lewis