



SPECIAL PLANTS OF
NEW JERSEY

factsheet

Darlington's Glade Spurge

Scientific Name: *Euphorbia purpurea*

State-listed: Endangered

Federally-listed: None

State Conservation Rank: S1

Global Conservation Rank: G3

Description/Identification Tips: Stout, perennial herb in the spurge family (Euphorbiaceae), up to 1 m tall and branching towards the top. Leaves opposite, entire, elliptic and blunt, 5-10 by 1-3 cm. Flowers are minute and on umbels with 5-8 spokes, with yellow-green, sometimes purplish petal-like bracts enclosing the inflorescences.

Range: NJ west to OH, south to NC.

Best Time to See: Blooms May to June.

Habitat: Dry or moist woods; rich woods along seeps, swamps, or streambanks; thickets.

Management: Plants may benefit from measures to prevent browsing by deer and trampling by hikers and off-road vehicles.

Needs: Searches for unknown occurrences, identification of pollinators and seed dispersers, quantification of deer herbivory impacts, and population viability analyses.

Comments: Darlington's Glade Spurge is closely related to the poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*), the popular winter holiday potted plant. As is true of Darlington's Glade Spurge, what appear to be the petals on the poinsettia are actually modified leaves (bracts), with the flowers being inconspicuously small.

References: Gleason and Cronquist 1991; Clemants and Gracie 2006; Center for Plant Conservation 2010; NatureServe 2010; USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database 2011.

— Ecological Interactions —

* A potentially threatening insect herbivore is the root-mining flea beetle, which has been introduced as a biocontrol agent meant to control populations of the closely related, but weedy *Euphorbia esula* (Leafy Spurge). So far, herbivory on *E. purpurea* by this beetle has not been documented, but the potential for host-switching requires ongoing monitoring.



NJ Natural Heritage
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Current and Historically
Documented Records