

Summary of EPPO Prioritization process¹ for: *Euphorbia heterophylla*

Section A. Prioritization process scheme for the elaboration of different lists of invasive alien plants (pests or potential pests) for the area under assessment

A.1 Is the plant species known to be alien in all, or a significant part, of the area under assessment?

Yes: *Euphorbia heterophylla* is native to the Americas (PoWO, 2024).

A.2 Is the plant species established in at least a part of the area under assessment? (if yes goto A5)

Yes, *Eragrostis curvula* is established in Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Italy, Spain (Canary Islands) (EPPO, 2024).

A. 3 Is the plant species known to be invasive outside the area under assessment?

A yes for question A.2 means this question is skipped.

A.4 Based on ecoclimatic conditions, could the species establish in the area under assessment?

A yes for question A.2 means this question is skipped.

A.5 How high is the spread potential of the plant in the area under assessment?

High spread potential with moderate uncertainty: Seed is naturally dispersed in the vicinity of the parent plant. Seed can be spread through agricultural practices and through human assisted spread (Wilson et al., 2016).

A.6 How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on native species, habitats and ecosystems in the area under assessment?

Low with a moderate uncertainty: No published information.

A.7 How high is the potential negative impact of the plant on agriculture, horticulture or forestry in the area under assessment?

High with a moderate uncertainty: Agricultural weed which can impact many crops, reducing the yield. In Greece (Anthochori, Kopaida plain and Viotia regions), the species infests cotton and processing tomato fields Chachalis (2015). Control of the species is difficult (Palma-Bautisa et al., 2020).

A.8 How high are the potential additional impacts (e.g. on animal and human health, on infrastructures, on recreational activities, other trade related impacts such as market losses)?

Low with a moderate uncertainty: No published information.

¹ EPPO (2012) EPPO Prioritization process for invasive alien plants. EPPO Bulletin 42, 463-474.

Outcome of Section A: *Euphorbia heterophylla* is included on the EPPO List of Invasive Alien Plants

		A5 -Spread potential		
		Low	Medium	High
Adverse impacts (maximum rating from questions A6, A7 and A8.	Low	List of minor concern	List of minor concern	List of minor concern
	Medium	List of minor concern	Observation List	Observation List
	High	Observation List	Observation List	List of invasive alien plants

The Panel on Invasive Alien Plants considered that there remains some uncertainty to the area of potential establishment of *Euphorbia heterophylla* in the EPPO region. Therefore, the Panel recommend that that *E. heterophylla* is not considered further at this stage. The assessment stops here.

B. Prioritization process scheme for the identification of invasive alien plants for which a PRA is needed

B.1 Is the plant species internationally traded or are there other existing or potential international pathways?

B.2 Is the risk of introduction by these international pathways identified to be superior to natural spread?

B.3 Does the plant species still have a significant area suitable for further spread in the area under assessment?

Outcome of section B: -

Selected references

Chachalis D (2015) Wild poinsettia (*Euphorbia heterophylla*): an emerging weed in cotton and processing tomato in Greece. Hellenic Plant Protection Journal 8, 27-32

EPPO (2024) EPPO Global Database. <https://gd.eppo.int/>

Palma-Bautista C, Rojano-Delgado AM, Vázquez-García JG, Yannicari M, Prado RD (2020) Resistance to Fomesafen, Imazamox and Glyphosate in *Euphorbia heterophylla* from Brazil. Agronomy 10, 1573.

POWO (2024). "Plants of the World Online. Facilitated by the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew. Published on the Internet; <http://www.plantsoftheworldonline.org/> Retrieved 01 March 2024."

Tanveer A, Khaliq A, Javaid MM, Chaudhry MN, Awan I (2013) Implications of weeds of genus *Euphorbia* for crop production: a review. Planta Daninha 31, 723-731

Wilson AK (2009) *Euphorbia heterophylla*: a review of distribution, importance and control. Tropical Pest Management 27, 32-38.

Wilson CE, Castro KL, Thurston GB, Sissons A (2016) Pathway risk analysis of weed seeds in imported grain: a Canadian perspective. In: Daehler CC, van Kleunen M, Pyšek P, Richardson DM (Eds) Proceedings of 13th International EMAPi conference, Waikoloa, Hawaii. *NeoBiota* 30, 49–74.