

## September Succulent of the Month

Andrea Varesic

**Taxonomy:** *Euphorbia xanti*, known as the Baja spurge, is a species of flowering succulent in the spurge family Euphorbiaceae. It is also known as *E. gymnoclada* and *Aklema xanti*. It is also commonly called White Spurge, Confetti Flower and in Spanish by the names cenefa, indita, liga and jumetón. This plant was originally collected sometime between 1859-1861 by John Xantus de Vesey (1825-1894) a Hungarian zoologist and prominent 19th century specimen collector in North America.

**Habitat:** It is native to Mexico, occurring in Baja California, Sonora, and Sinaloa. It is native to sea bluffs, dunes, rocky washes, and slopes.

**Description:** - An interesting fast growing openly-branched deciduous evergreen shrub to 3 to 6 feet tall and spreading by rhizomes to form extensive stands. From the woody base arise the pencil-thin gray-green stems bearing small ovate-lanceolate green leaves that come out after the plant begins to flower and often drop when temperatures rise or soils dry in summer. The white, often blushed-light-to-dark-pink, fragrant "flowers", appear in terminal clusters from mid-winter to late spring, sometimes to late summer - so it seems to flower nearly year-round. Flowers are followed by small gray rounded capsules.



[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euphorbia\\_xanti](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euphorbia_xanti)

**Cultivation:** Plant in full sun in a well-drained soil. It is drought tolerant but grows much faster and looks more lush with warm season irrigation. Hardy to 25° F with only light tip damage. It spreads by underground stems and can also self sow in the garden - this would be easier to control if one was not also hindered by the typical euphorbia toxic white sap that one wants to avoid. The best practice for this plant is to plant it on a slope or in the back of the garden where it has room to spread or withhold irrigation or keep it in a pot.

**Of interest :** It is one of the few fragrant Euphorbias.

I have two plants that are growing in pots. This summer I have had to water them every 2 to 3 days. My plants are two years old, but have never flowered. They both have many branches that are 4+ feet long.





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<https://waterwisegardenplanner.org/plants/euphorbia-xanthii/>



### References:

Baja spurge [waterwisegardenplanner.org](https://waterwisegardenplanner.org)

[https://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant\\_id=3622](https://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=3622)

[https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euphorbia\\_xanti](https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Euphorbia_xanti)