

DUNE CONSERVATION – Eradication of Castor Oil plant (*Ricinus communis*)



Castor Oil plant *Ricinus communis*

Due to its colonising potential, it constitutes a serious threat to indigenous species, habitats or ecosystems.

This species is included in the Spanish Catalogue of Invasive Exotic Species.

The seeds are highly toxic due to the presence of an albumin called ricin.

Castor oil, obtained by pressing the seeds and heating the oil thus obtained so as to destroy the ricin, is one of the most reputable purgatives. The fruit is a subglobose capsule, with short, thick spines.

It is used as an important technical lubricant and for the manufacture of soaps and tinctures.

