

Do YOU have the scourge of Myrtle Spurge?

This noxious and toxic weed is invading your neighborhood.
Act today to protect your children, pets, native plants and wildlife.

Myrtle Spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*)



Myrtle Spurge is a
List A Colorado
Noxious Weed
requiring
eradication
wherever found.

Also called
Donkeytail or
creeping spurge, it
was originally sold
as an ornamental,
but is no longer
legally available. A
native to Eurasia,
this weed is
spreading
aggressively
throughout the
foothills area.

IDENTIFICATION:

- A low growing perennial forb, 4-8 inches tall, can spread up to 18 inches.
- Trailing stems and alternate leaves are fleshy with blue-green coloration.
- Flowers are yellow-green, petal-like bracts; appear in early spring.
- Seed heads can project seeds up to 15 feet. Seeds may be viable up to 8 years.
- Taproot produces new stems each season, but plants primarily spread by seed.
- Plant exudes a milky latex sap.
- Often found in xeriscaping, rock gardens and disturbed areas.
- Prefers well drained soils, generally in the sun but will tolerate shade.

IMPACTS:

- The sticky, toxic sap can cause severe skin irritations.
- Plant is considered poisonous to humans and animals.
- Large scale infestations reduce native plant and wildlife habitat.

CONTROL:

•Biological: none

•Chemical:

***Dicamba + 2,4-D** (general use)

***2,4-D** ester (general use)

***Glyphosate** (general use)

***Picloram + 2,4-D** (Tordon-restricted use +2,4-D general use)

***Picloram** (Tordon-restricted use)

For specific chemical information go to the State of Colorado Website at <http://www.ag.state.co.us/CSD/Weeds/Weedhome.html> or contact your county weed agent

**Not all products listed are for use near homes. Be sure and read the label to determine if a listed product is appropriate for your site. The label is the law!*

•Mechanical:

Handpull or dig when the soil is soft to remove the entire root. Be sure to wear protective clothing. Nitrile type gloves and protective eyewear are also recommended.

(Mowing is not advised as it can spread the seeds.)

ALTERNATIVE PLANTINGS:

- Suphur flower (*Eriogonum umbellatum*)
- Kinnikinnick (*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)

For more information or to report infestations of Myrtle Spurge contact your Weed Agent:

Jefferson County
700 Jefferson County PKY, Suite 100
Golden, CO 80401
303.271.5989

Park County
PO Box 2027
Woodland Park, CO 80866
719.836.4167

Clear Creek County
PO Box 362
Dumont, CO 80436
303.679.2325



The Community Weed
Awareness Campaign



The Evergreen Naturalists
Audubon Society

www.dipper.org