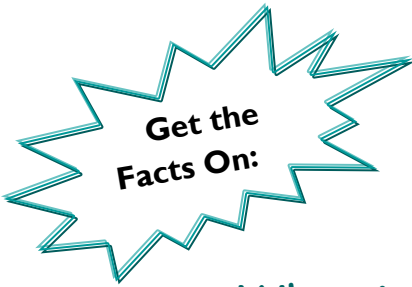




Myrtle Spurge

Euphorbia myrsinites



What is Myrtle Spurge?

Myrtle Spurge, also called "domkeytail" or "creeping spurge", was added to California's list of "A" rated Noxious Weeds in 2018, which requires it to be eradicated and prevented from propagating. A drought tolerant perennial native to Eurasia, Myrtle Spurge was first introduced to North America as an ornamental. It is considered a noxious weed because it is aggressive and spreads easily, outcompeting native plants.



Why should I care about Myrtle Spurge?

Along with being an aggressive and invasive weed, Myrtle Spurge is also highly toxic to humans and animals. When the plant is picked or disturbed, it exudes a milky white sap from the stems and leaves that can cause burning and blistering to any flesh that it comes in contact with. Long pants, long sleeve shirts, and gloves are recommended when handling Myrtle Spurge.

What does Myrtle Spurge look like?

Myrtle Spurge is an herbaceous plant with fleshy, waxy, grayish-green leaves that spiral around spreading upright stems. It produces small yellow flowers in early spring. When mature, it is 4 to 12 inches tall, with stems up to 18 inches long. Myrtle Spurge produces multiple new stems from the center taproot every year.



How do I remove and control Myrtle Spurge?

In most cases, Myrtle Spurge is easily removed by hand. Be sure to wear gloves, long pants, long sleeve shirt, and eye protection. The milky white sap can severely irritate skin and eyes, and is toxic if ingested.



- ◆ Pull Myrtle Spurge before it produces seed, which will stay viable in the soil for 8 years. Pulling is much more effective when the soil is moist and soft.
- ◆ Remove at least 4 inches of the root when pulling Myrtle Spurge. The weed has a long taproot, so the more you can pull out, the more effective it will be at preventing re-growth.
- ◆ Bag the Spurge and put it with your household trash for pick up. Do NOT burn or compost Myrtle Spurge.
- ◆ Be committed! Follow-up treatments are important. Spurge will likely need to be pulled for a few years before it is completely gone..
- ◆ Tell your friends and neighbors to **Purge Their Spurge** too.

Other Spurge invaders

Although not as toxic as Myrtle Spurge, the sap from these plants, as with most in the Euphorbia family, can cause skin and eye irritation and burning. Many types of Euphorbia are commonly used as a drought tolerant ornamental in landscaping and can still be purchased at many Home & Garden Centers.



Caper Spurge



Leafy Spurge



Cypress Spurge



Poinsettia

For more information: Plumas-Sierra Dept. of Agriculture - 530-283-6365

California Invasive Plant Council - www.cal-ipc.org

University of California ANR - http://ucce-plumas-sierra.ucanr.edu/Weed_Science/

Calif. Dept. of Food and Agriculture Integrated Pest Control- www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant

Plumas-Sierra Counties Dept. of Agriculture - www.countyofplumas.com/agriculture