

Myrtle spurge

Euphorbia myrsinites



Cypress spurge

Euphorbia cyparissias



- Both reproduce by seed and plant fragments

Myrtle spurge:

- 4-8 in. tall with an 18 in. spread
- Flower-like bracts, yellow-green alternate leaves
- Mature seeds can “pop” and be propelled up to 15 ft. away

Cypress spurge:

- 4-32 in. tall
- Flowers late spring or early summer and continues until late autumn
- Flowers and bracts are yellowish-green early in the season, turning reddish-green when mature

Negative Impacts

- Milky latex sap causes severe skin irritation and blindness from eye contact
- Burns hair off legs of grazing animals
- Cattle, horse and elk grazing is greatly reduced in infestations
- Escaped ornamental, now found in natural areas, crowding out native vegetation
- Reduces agricultural production
- Infestations reduce or eliminate wildlife use



Colorado
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Extension

Myrtle and Cypress spurge

Chemical Control (always add non-ionic surfactant @ 1 oz for each 3 gallons of water):

In Ornamentals:

Roundup (41.0% Glyphosate)

- 2 to 3 quarts per acre (3-5 oz per gallon of clean water for hand spray)
- For contact wick applications mix 5 parts water to 1 part Roundup (41% Glyphosate)
- Do not let herbicide contact desirable plants or live bark trees such as Aspen

In Rangeland or Non-Crop:

Tordon + 2,4-D (Picloram-Restricted Use)

- 20 fl oz + 2 to 3 pints of 2,4-D Amine per acre
- Apply at flowering growth stage
- Will damage neighboring brush species if applied in root zone
- Do not apply near trees or water

Tordon (Picloram—Restricted Use)

- 1 quart per acre
- Apply at flowering growth stage
- Will damage neighboring brush species if applied in root zone
- Do not apply near trees or water

Mechanical Control:

- Hand pull or dig when soil is moist
- Make certain to pull all the roots
- Be careful to wear rubber gloves and eye protection to protect yourself from the caustic milky sap

Stopping flowering and seed production is critical for success. Mowing is ineffective.

The soil seed reserve of Cypress Spurge is estimated to be 8 years. The site must be monitored for at least 9 years after the last flowering adult plants have been eliminated and treatments repeated when necessary

07/2007

La Plata County Weed Office
2500 Main Ave
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 382-6470

www.laplataweeds.org