Myrtle spurge
*Euphorbia myrsinites*

- 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
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