

Myrtle Spurge Fact Sheet

Euphorbia myrsinites

Euphorbiaceae Family



K. Mosbrugger, SLCO Weed Control Program

Distinguishing Features:

- ❶ **Flowers:** Inconspicuous flowers with showy yellow bracts.
- ❷ **Seeds:** Plants spread primarily by seed and are capable of projecting seed up to 15 feet.
- ❸ **Leaves:** Blue-green triangular shaped leaves with white milky latex sap.
- ❹ **Flowering Time:** April - June.

Warning!! All parts of myrtle spurge contain a caustic latex sap that can result in skin irritation, redness, swelling, and blisters. Caution must be taken not to get any of the sap on the skin or in the eyes. If contact does occur, rinse the area thoroughly.

Impacts:

- Myrtle spurge is an escaped ornamental that quickly crowds out native plants.
- Although it is touted as deer resistant and extremely drought tolerant, it is rapidly invading our foothills and wild lands along the Wasatch Front.
- It poses a threat to children and adults who come in contact with its caustic sap.
- Myrtle spurge is a Utah State listed noxious weed and therefore is restricted for sale within the state.

Control:

- Small infestations can be controlled through multiple years of digging up at least 4" of the root.
- Myrtle spurge is best controlled in the spring when the soil is moist and prior to seed production.
- Make sure to dispose of all the plant parts in the garbage instead of composting.
- For larger infestations, myrtle spurge can be effectively controlled with products containing 2, 4-D and dicamba (i.e. Weed B Gon) applied in late fall.



A "Purge your Spurge" participant holds a bag of myrtle spurge.

*Please visit our website for references sourcing this information.



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Control Program
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