



**Myrtle spurge**  
*Euphorbia myrsinites*



Myrtle Spurge	
<b>General</b>	Spurge family (Euphorbiaceae) Introduced from Mediterranean region Has been sold as an ornamental but no longer available in Colorado All parts are poisonous <b>Sap may cause burns or irritation to skin</b> <b>List A - Eradication Required</b>
<b>Common names</b>	Myrtle spurge, creeping spurge, donkey tail spurge
<b>Habitat</b>	Perennial forb Prefers light, well-drained soil Found in gardens, natural areas, rocky slopes
PLANT	
<b>Vegetation</b>	Stems thick, fleshy. Unbranched, trail over ground 8 inches tall, 18+ inches wide Blue-green leaves ½-1 inch wide Leaves are alternate, egg-shaped to circular, surrounding the stem Foliage dies back in winter
<b>Roots</b>	Taproot
<b>Flower</b>	Flowers March-May Inconspicuous surrounded by greenish yellow bracts Expels seed to 15 feet when mature
<b>Seedling</b>	Rosette
<b>Seed</b>	Large, fleshy Covered in sticky gel-like substance Lasts 8 years in the soil
<b>Reproduction</b>	Seed Plant fragments

<b>CONTROL -- CHEMICAL</b>		
<i>Timing</i>	<i>Herbicide</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Spring Seedling to Flowering  Fall Mature plants	2,4D (Hardball, various) 2,4D + Dicamba (various) Glyphosate (various) Use a product that allows a 5% solution to spot treat. Most pre-mixed/ready-to-use products do not provide the required concentration.	Use of a surfactant is recommended for most herbicides to help increase contact with the vegetation and to facilitate herbicide uptake. Refer to the specific label for the appropriate type of surfactant.  Refer to the individual label for allowed sites, specific timing, and restrictions.  Formulations with more than one active ingredient are available.  Control will take a few years so treatment will need to be repeated.

<b>CONTROL -- NON-CHEMICAL</b>		
<i>Technique</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Method</i>
<b>Biological</b>	N/A	
<b>Burning</b>	N/A	
<b>Cultivation</b>	N/A	Cultivation severs the roots which will regrow plants from the fragments.
<b>Grazing</b>	N/A	
<b>Mowing</b>	N/A	
<b>Prevention</b>	Anytime	Maintain the health of the site by encouraging healthy stands of grass. Revegetation of highly disturbed sites.
<b>Removal</b>	Spring to Fall	Remove plants including all the root, put into bags, dispose of in the trash or landfill. Do not compost or put into green waste.  Wear rubber gloves, long sleeves, and eye protection. The sap is caustic and may cause severe blistering.

Use all chemicals according to the manufacturer's label. The label will provide specific instructions including allowed sites, application methods, rates, storage, re-entry requirements and personal protective equipment. No specific recommendation or endorsement is made or implied by listing the above methods or products. 9/2021