

Can You Help Purge the Spurge?

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Although appearing in landscapes, the State of Colorado would like to see **Myrtle Spurge** (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) disappear. Sometimes sold as a rock garden plant and often seen in areas that have been ignored, this plant is on the noxious weed **List A** which mandates immediate eradication. As with many noxious weeds, this plant is expanding into sensitive ecosystems.

As a low-growing perennial, it has succulent tail-like stems of blue-green leaves with yellow-green flowers. It can project its seeds up to 15 feet, thus reseeding itself to become a very invasive nuisance. It is very tolerant of drought and poor soil. It appears very early in the spring.

Homeowner and business owner alike, if you search and find this in your landscape, beware! The mature plant will exude toxic, milky latex which can cause severe skin irritations. Wear rubber gloves and long sleeves if you need to remove this plant from your property. All parts of the plant are considered poisonous. For additional information about noxious weeds in Colorado, go to: <https://www.colorado.gov/pacific/agconservation/noxious-weed-species>.

The Colorado State University Master Gardeners in El Paso County would like to know if you have this plant anywhere in your area. If you find it, please contact them with your location at: purgeyourspurgeelpasocountyco@gmail.com.

