

**Purge the Spurge**  
**Exchange your spurge for FREE groundcover plants!**  
**Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 1:00-3:00 p.m.**

By Cindy Schaefer, Colorado Master Gardener

Colorado State University Extension El Paso County Master Gardeners will give you free groundcover plants in exchange for your bagged Myrtle spurge! The more Myrtle spurge you bring, the more plants you get.

**This event will be held at the Colorado State University Extension – El Paso County, 17 N. Spruce Street, Colorado Springs on Saturday, April 24, 2021 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Myrtle spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*), also known as donkeytail spurge, is a highly invasive noxious weed and, unfortunately, has been planted in many rock gardens. This plant is rapidly expanding into sensitive ecosystems, displacing native vegetation and reducing forage for wildlife. The same attributes that make it appealing to El Paso County gardeners (drought tolerance, hardiness, and tolerance of poor soils) also make it a successful competitor with native species.

Myrtle spurge is a **Colorado A List Species noxious weed**, which requires eradication on all lands County, State, Federal, or Private.

Be Aware! This plant exudes toxic, milky latex, which can cause severe skin irritations, so take necessary precautions when removing the plant:

- wear rubber gloves
- cover your arms and legs
- protect your eyes, nose and mouth

Be sure you are pulling Myrtle spurge and not another type of weed. It's also important to dig out the roots. Place securely in bags.

To attend this event, print one ticket per household to exchange with your bag(s) of Myrtle spurge and receive your FREE groundcover plants.

Tickets are available at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/purge-the-spurge-tickets-137366399599>

**Thanks to FOX, the Friends of Extension, creators of the Colorado Springs Garden Tour for supporting this FREE event!**

