

PROMOTE NATIVE REPLACEMENTS

Plant native species in areas where myrtle spurge has been growing.

Some native replacements are:

- Colorado Four o'clock
(*Mirabilis multiflora*)
- Sulphur-flower Buckwheat
(*Eriogonum umbellatum*)
- Kinnikinnick
(*Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*)
- Creeping Barberry
(*Mahonia repens*)
- Four-nerve Daisy
(*Tetrandeum acaulis*)
- Tufted Evening Primrose
(*Oenothera caespitosa*)

Other ideas can be found on:

- Colorado Native Plant Society
www.conps.org
- Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks

www.bouldercolorado.gov/openspace

Be sparing with fertilizer, which can give weeds an advantage over native species.

Full list of noxious weeds:

Colorado Department of Agriculture

700 Kipling Street Suite 4000

Lakewood, CO 80215-8000

303-239-4100

www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds

Boulder Integrated Pest Management Program

www.BoulderColorado.gov/IPM



Boulder Police

Code Enforcement Unit

Public Safety Building
1805 33rd Street
Boulder, Colorado
80301

Phone: 303-441-3333
www.bouldercolorado.gov

Boulder Police Code Enforcement Unit

GUIDE TO

MYRTLE SPURGE

*Working with the community to
provide service and safety.*



Dispatch: 303-441-3333

“LIST A” NOXIOUS WEED

MYRTLE SPURGE

Myrtle Spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*), also called ‘donkey tail’ and ‘creeping spurge’, is one of Colorado’s “List A” noxious weeds, which requires it to be eradicated and prevented from propagating. A drought-tolerant perennial native to Eurasia, myrtle spurge was introduced to North America as an ornamental. It is considered noxious because it is aggressive and proliferates easily, outcompetes native plants, and has toxic milky sap.



Myrtle Spurge is a “List A” Noxious Weed under the Colorado Weed Act and must be eradicated when located on any property.

DO NOT COMPOST!

IDENTIFYING MYRTLE SPURGE

Myrtle spurge is an herbaceous plant with fleshy, waxy, grayish-green leaves that spiral around spreading, prostrate stems. It produces small yellow flowers in the early spring. When mature it is 4-12” tall with stems up to 18” long. Myrtle spurge produces multiple new stems from the center taproot every year. Interestingly, it is in the same plant family as Poinsettias (*Euphorbiaceae*).

CONTROLLING MYRTLE SPURGE



On your property, myrtle spurge is easily removed by hand.

Note: It exudes latex that can severely irritate skin and eyes and is toxic if ingested. Wear gloves, long pants, and a long-sleeved shirt when pulling.

- **DO NOT LET KIDS** work or play with it! Wash skin and clothes after contacting it.
- Pull myrtle spurge before it produces seed, which is viable for 8 years.
- Myrtle spurge has a taproot, so the more of this you can pull out, the more effective it will be at preventing re-growth.

- Pulling can be more effective when the ground is moist and soft, such as after a soaking rain.
- Be committed! Follow-up treatments are important. Likely it will need to be pulled for a few years before it is completely gone.
- Do not compost myrtle spurge! The material can contain seeds and other propagules such as root fragments. Bag it and send it to the landfill.



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