**FACTS ABOUT MYRTLE SPURGE**

- **Myrtle spurge** (*Euphorbia myrsinites*) is also known as donkeytail, blue, or creeping spurge.

- All plant parts contain a **poisonous** white milky sap that can cause serious skin irritation.

- Plants spread by both seed and root fragments.

- Myrtle spurge is out-competing native plant communities in our local foothills and canyons.

- Myrtle spurge is not a listed noxious weed in Utah, and it can often be found for sale at garden centers. However, many nurseries and growers are choosing not to sell it.

- Myrtle spurge may seem beneficial because it is drought tolerant and easy to care for; However, there are much better alternatives that are less harmful to our environment.

**KEY IDENTIFIERS**

- Multiple flowers per stem. Plants throw their seeds up to 15 feet.

- Yellow flowers with chartreuse bracts.

- Blue-green leaves with a white milky sap.

**PLANTING ALTERNATIVES**

Myrtle spurge is known by gardeners for its unusual flowers and its ability to survive in hard-to-garden locations. However, because of its invasive nature and poisonous sap, it is being dug up by many concerned gardeners.

Good alternatives to myrtle spurge include drought-tolerant perennials, Utah natives, and other commonly found ornamentals that attract beneficial insects and wildlife. Some good choices include:

**Utah Water-wise Natives:**

- Sulphur flower *Erigonum umbellatum*
- Sundance Daisy *Hymenoxys acaulis*
- Fragrant evening primrose *Oenothera caespitosa*
- Desert Four-oclock *Mirabilis multiflora*

**Other natives and ornamentals:**

- Penstemon *Penstemon sp.*
- Sedums (such as Hen & Chicks)
- Basket of gold *Aurinia saxatilis*
Salt Lake County
Phil McCraley & Sage Fitch
Weed Control Hotline: **801-562-6466**
Email: weeds@slco.org
Weed Website: www.weeds.slco.org

Tooele County
Laury Hardy & Jerry Caldwell
Vegetation Management:
**435-843-3204**

**MYRTLE SPURGE**
is an invasive ornamental plant popular in xeriscapes and rock gardens. Not only is this non-native weed threatening our foothills and national forests, but it is also a public health threat.

**WARNING!**

Caution must be taken to avoid skin and eye irritation from contact with the plant sap. To protect yourself always wear gloves, long sleeves, and eye protection.

**Manual Control**
- Control small infestations by digging. Try to dig up at least 4” of the root if possible.
- Dispose of all the plant parts in the garbage instead of composting.

**Chemical Control**
- Apply repeatedly with 2,4-D or glyphosate (brand names include weed-begone or roundup), in the fall for greatest effect.
- Use caution when using herbicides and always follow the label.

Which ever method you choose, manual or chemical, **be consistent** for **multiple years** to have success.

This brochure was created by the Bonneville CWMA with funding provided by the US Forest Service and the Utah Weed Supervisors Association.