



## Myrtle spurge fact sheet

Scientific name: *Euphorbia myrsinites*

General information: Myrtle spurge is an introduced ornamental from the same family as other notorious noxious weeds such as leafy spurge and cypress spurge. In Colorado it is commonly found in landscape plantings and flower gardens. Mature plants grow to heights of 4 to 6 inches with clusters of small yellowish green flowers at the top of the plant. Leaves are bluish-green in color with triangle-shaped leaves. A key identification characteristic of this flower garden bandit is a milky white latex sap that oozes from any part of the plant. Handle carefully with gloves and protect yourself by wearing long sleeves and long pants. Take extreme caution, as this sap is highly toxic and can cause severe skin blisters, seek immediate medical attention if it gets in your eyes.

It is against the law: In 2003 the State of Colorado listed myrtle spurge as a list A noxious weed specie, C.R.S. 35-5.5-101-119, because of its aggressive growth habit and poisonous nature, even though it has been sold as an ornamental plant. You can comply with this law by pulling or digging mature plants from your property and disposing them in a landfill.

Contact: If you have questions regarding this plant, please contact Russell Johnson, Arapahoe County Weed Control Specialist, at 720-874-6713 or email [rjohnson@co.arapahoe.co.us](mailto:rjohnson@co.arapahoe.co.us)