Myrtle Spurge



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University of **California** Agriculture and Natural Resources

****In the following presentation any mention of pesticide or pesticide trade name is not an recommendation by the University of California. Pesticides are mentioned by trade name for informational purposes only. Mention of any pesticide is not a guarantee of their effectiveness or an endorsement of other pesticides not mentioned. When ever using a pesticide make sure to read and follow the entire label. Some uses of pesticides mentioned could be experimental not labeled uses.



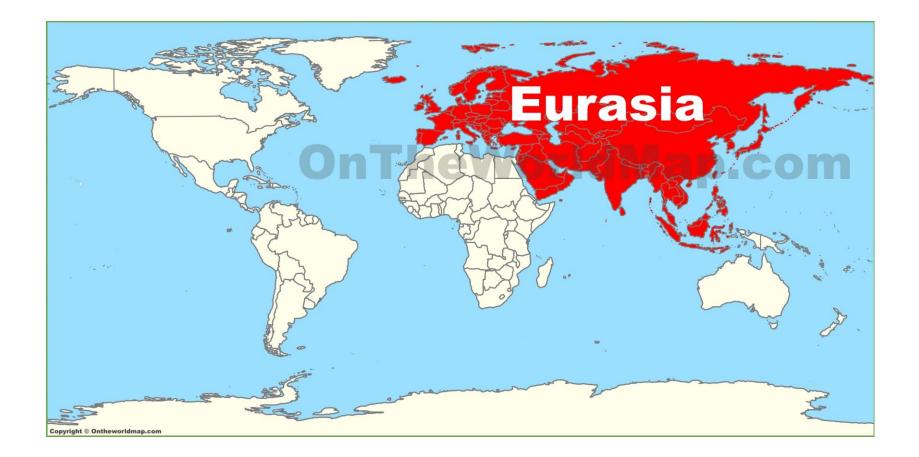
Euphorbia myrsinites

- Myrtle Spurge
- Donkey Tail
- Blue Spurge
- Broad Leafed Glaucus Spurge

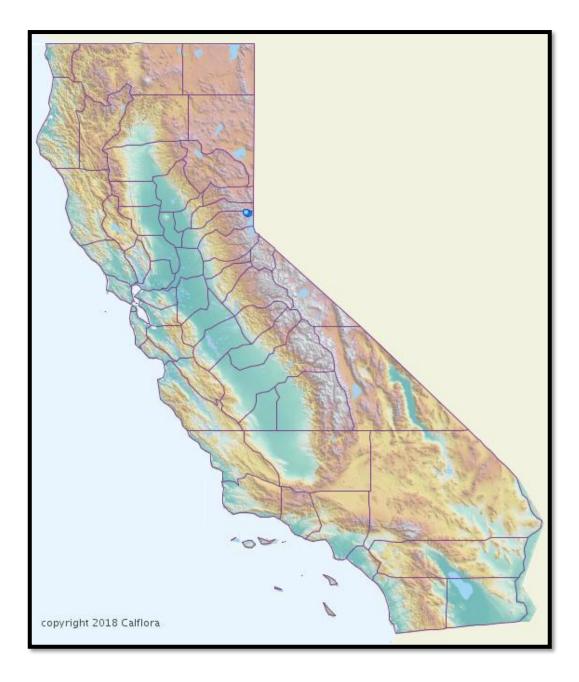


Photo courtesy of: https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/images/weeds/myrtle-spurge/_thumbnail/myrtlespurge2.jpg

Native to Eurasia







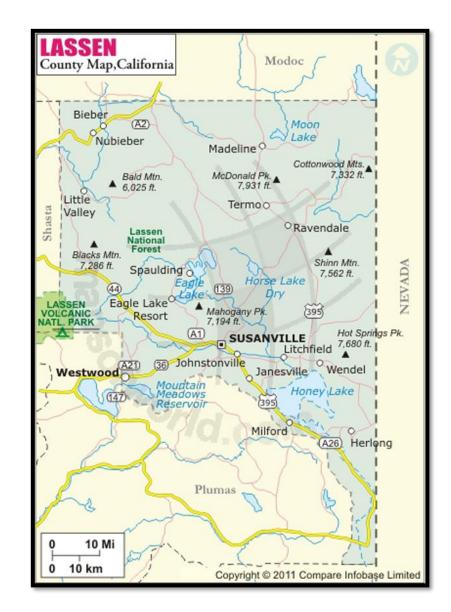
Noxious?

- Colorado- A list
- Washington- B list
- Oregon- B list
- Utah- P
- California-??



Lassen County

- Expanding Population by Stones Landing (Eagle Lake)
 - In neighborhood
 - Along road
 - Spreading into sagebrush/natural system
- BLM contacted
- Lassen Ag Department Contacted
 - Samples collected and submitted to CDFA
 - Species put on Quarantine
 - Q list
 - Evaluated for Noxious Status



Listing Process

- Current Distribution Assessed
 - Two spreading populations
 - Two isolated populations
- Invasiveness Elsewhere Assessed
 - Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming, etc., all deemed invasive



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Consequence of Establishment

- Suitable Habitat
 - Medium (high elevation/dry sagebrush)
- Dispersal
 - Medium
- Economic Impacts
 - Yield, other state quarantines, production
- Environmental Impacts
 - Endangered species, treatment needed, alter horticultural plantings



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Result- A list Weed Species in CA

- Low population level
- High potential for negative impact
 - Ecological
 - Economical
- Deems-ERADICATION!!!
 - Limited populations
 - Potential for success!!!!



FOOD & AGRICULTURE

Five Other Invasive Spurges in California

- Euphorbia terracina- Carnation spurge-B
- Euphorbia virgate- Leafy Spurge-A
- Euphorbia oblongata- Oblong spurge-B
- Euphorbia serrata- Toothed Spurge-A
- Euphorbia dendroides- Tree Spurge-B

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Characteristics

- Pretty looking plant
 - Showy yellow bracts
 - Small flowers
 - Blueish green foliage
- Deer tolerant
- Drought tolerant
- Cold tolerant
- Full sun
- Sandy soils/rocky areas



Biology

- Ornamental- Escaped!
- Creeping perennial
- Spread by roots and seed
 - Seed "projected" 5 feet
 - Seed life unknown
 - Estimated at 8 years
- 8-12 inches tall
- 12-18 inches wide



Dermatitis!

- Poisonous when eaten!
- (Sheep and goats possible grazing?)
- Milky latex sap -
 - Contact dermatitis





Photos courtesy of: http://www.personaltouchcolorado.com/beware-scourge-myrtle-spurge/

Control

- Mechanical
 - Hand pulling
 - Wet soil
 - Get root
 - Multiple times
 - Gloves!
 - Protective eyewear!
 - Cultivation
 - Suppression
 - Can spread population
 - Plant desirable species



Control

Biocontrol

- Grazing goats- suppression
- Insects?
- Diseases?
- Chemical
- Spring or fall applications
 - 2,4-D (hardball)
 - Dicamba
 - Roundup
 - Across state lines-Tordon
- Surfactant needed- waxy leaves



Spread the Word!

• Purge the Spurge! (*Phase Stolen from Utah and Colorado)



Photo courtesy of: http://www.tcweed.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/Myrtle-spurge-4.jpg

Questions?