

# Myrtle Spurge (*Euphorbia myrsinites*)

Also known as Blue Spurge and Donkey Tail



## Key ID features:

- Low growing (4-12 inches tall)
- Spreading habit (12-18 inches wide)
- Blue-green, fleshy, triangular shaped leaves
- Yellow flower-like bracts (March-June)
- Perennial, growing from a taproot



## Why is it a problem?

- Seed capsules can “pop” and propel seeds up to 15 feet
- Toxic, milky sap may cause severe skin irritation, including blistering
- Poisonous if ingested
- Rapidly escapes landscapes and invades the foothills and other natural areas
- Outcompetes native vegetation
- Reduces wildlife forage
- Listed by the State of Utah as a prohibited noxious weed



## Tips for purging the spurge:

- Wear long sleeves, long pants, gloves, and eye protection to protect against the toxic sap
- Remove as much of the taproot as possible (at least 4 inches)
- Collect plants in plastic bags for disposal – never compost!
- Remove plants before seed set
- Remove plants early on to prevent establishment
- For chemical control, use 2,4-D or glyphosate herbicide
- Success requires consistent, multi-year effort



For more information, contact:

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