

WeedWise tips to target Spurge laurel

⊙ *Know your invader.* Familiarize yourself with spurge laurel and learn how to identify and manage this species.

⊙ *Inspect your property.* Keep an eye on your property for spurge laurel, particularly in home landscapes, natural areas, and forests.

⊙ *Control spurge laurel before it becomes a problem.* Control when patches are small and manageable and wear gloves and protective clothing to avoid exposure to the toxic sap.

⊙ *Know when to seek help.* Some weeds may require particular methods or techniques for control to be successful. Contact the **WeedWise** program for additional information about a particular weed or management practice.

⊙ *Don't spread spurge laurel.* Properly dispose of pulled plants. Treat berry covered plants as trash and don't compost them once they have flowered.

⊙ *Be patient and diligent.* Understand that controlling and preventing the reinfestation of spurge laurel may be a long term process.



Known current and historic Spurge laurel locations in Clackamas County
The red dots depict all known Spurge laurel locations.



This brochure was printed using soy ink and recycled paper.



CLACKAMAS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
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spurge laurel
Daphne laureola

Samuel Leitinger, Clackamas SWCD

Spurge Laurel



Management



CLACKAMAS COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
www.conservationdistrict.org

Good dirt. Clean water.

Samuel Leitinger, Clackamas SWCD

Spurge Laurel



Above: A large spurge laurel infestation



Clockwise from upper left: spurge laurel berries in summer, green to pink flowers of spurge laurel in spring, adult spurge laurel plants, spurge laurel seedlings in spring.



What is spurge laurel?

Spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*) is a state-listed noxious weed invading our region. Native to Europe, this perennial plant commonly invades home landscapes, natural areas, and forest understories.

What does it look like?

Adult plants can form dense patches up to 6 feet in height at maturity. The leaves of spurge laurel are narrowly spoon shaped, and are arranged in whorls around the stem. Spurge laurel has green to pale pink inconspicuous flowers that develop from the base of the leaves. The flowers develop into dark purple to black berries.

Why should I worry about spurge laurel?

Spurge laurel has a toxic sap that can cause skin irritation in sensitive individuals. As such, it is important to **wear protective clothing and gloves when handling this plant!** The sap can also volatilize causing breathing and respiratory problems. Spurge laurel also displaces native vegetation needed by wildlife for food and shelter.

How does spurge laurel spread?

In our area, spurge laurel is typically spread by humans or by birds. For many years, spurge laurel was used as an evergreen shrub in home landscapes, but quickly fell out of favor due to its aggressive growth. The dark berries of spurge laurel

develop in summer and are ingested and spread by birds. New populations can spread sporadically away from existing populations and can be difficult to detect. Plants should be prevented from seeding and removed from home landscapes to prevent continued spread.

How do I control spurge laurel on my property?

Spurge laurel contains a toxic sap and care should be taken to avoid exposure to sap.

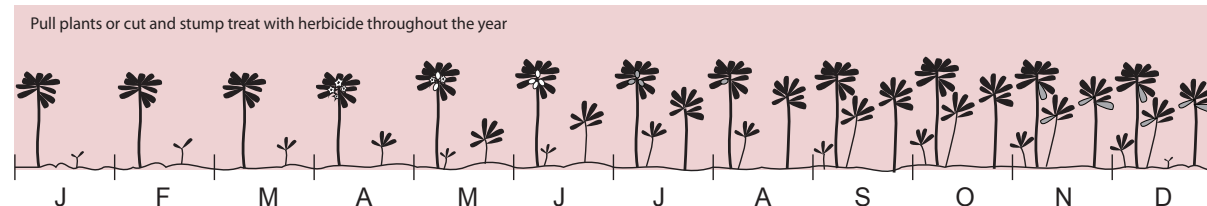
Small infestations are best controlled by hand pulling or digging up plants. A Weed Wrench or similar puller will effectively remove larger plants. Contact the **WeedWise** program to check out one of our Weed Wrenches **free of charge**.

For larger infestations, plants should be cut at ground level and stump treated using an herbicide containing the active ingredient triclopyr to prevent regrowth.

Read the herbicide label to make sure the product is suitable for the site being treated. Products containing the active ingredients triclopyr have been shown to be effective in our area.

Before beginning an herbicide treatment, contact the **WeedWise** Program or consult the *Pacific Northwest Weed Management Handbook* (<http://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/>) for the most up-to-date herbicide recommendations.

Wear gloves and protective clothing to avoid contact with the toxic sap. Don't compost plants once berries have formed. Monitor sites where plants have been removed for regrowth and seedlings.



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REPORT SPURGE LAUREL!

Have you noticed invasive *spurge laurel* in your area? Report your sightings to the District's **WeedWise** program, or submit them online at oregoninvasiveshotline.org.



Oregon Invasive Species
Online Hotline