

Euphorbia cyparissias, Cypress Spurge

This species is often found in open areas such as fields, pastures, roadsides, yards, or on agricultural land. This plant is toxic to livestock, so infestations may contaminate pastures/fields that the animals eat from. In addition, it displaces native plants and effects habitat. When the plant is broken open, it produces a white, milky sap. This species is related to a number of cacti-like houseplants.

Description: This perennial plant grows up to 12 inches tall. The leaves are small (1 inch long). These leaves are alternate or whorled, bright green in color, and linear in shape.

Control: The Cypress Spurge has an extensive root system that may make manual removal difficult. Chemical controls can be used to effectively control this species with repeated applications. There are also several insects that can be used as biological control. Some of these insects include species of the chrysomelid beetles in the genus *Aphthona* and a cecidomyiid fly gall midge, and *Spurgia esulae* Gagne. Farmers and ranchers often use these species to save money over large infestations.

Look-alikes: Cypress Spurge can look similar to the also-invasive Leafy Spurge (*Euphorbia virgata*) but Cypress spurge is smaller with narrower leaves.

Flower Time and Description: In the late spring, Cypress Spurge blooms with yellow flowers which later mature to a red color. The fruit is three lobed with 1-3 egg shaped gray seeds per fruit.

