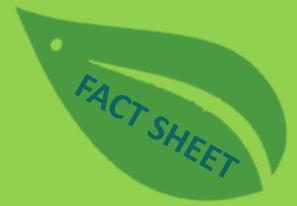


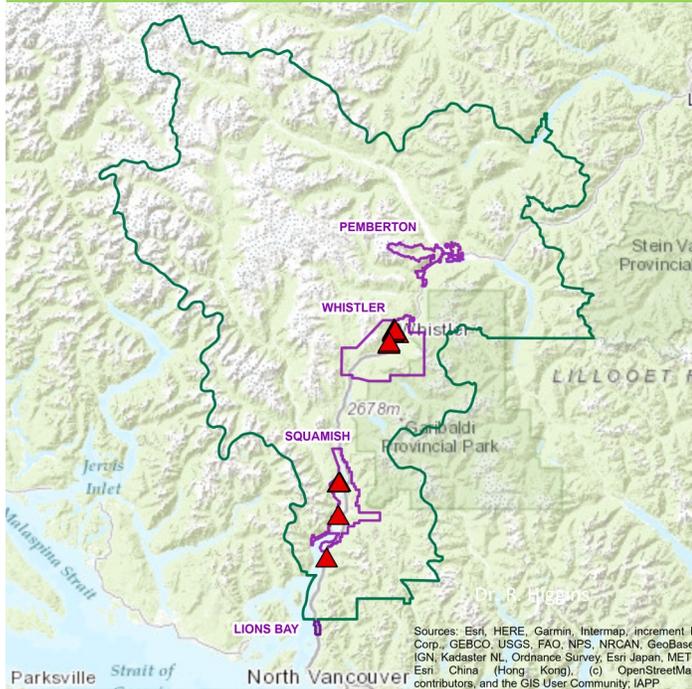
Cypress Spurge

Euphorbia cyparissas



Squamish: Eradicate | Whistler: Eradicate | Pemberton: Prevent

DISTRIBUTION



Origin: Cypress Spurge originates from Europe and was brought over as a garden ornamental.

Habitat: In North America, Cypress Spurge is commonly found in dry, gravelly roadsides, pastures, and meadows. Cypress Spurge thrives in open, disturbed areas.

Reproduction: Spreads predominantly by seed, but roots can also form new genetically identical plants by creeping rhizomes (horizontal roots that grow outwards from the main plant and send up clones). It can also form new plants from root fragments. Cypress Spurge has a rapid regeneration time.

IDENTIFICATION



Flowers: Small greenish-yellow female and male flowers clustered into a bowl-like involucre. Inflorescence forms an umbel.

Stems: Can grow to between 15-30 cm and are branch-less.

Leaves: Alternate, almost stalk-less. Branched leaves are needle-like, more narrow than stem leaves.

Seeds: 3 mm long, grey, grooved and oval shaped.

Similar Species:

- **Leafy Spurge** (*Euphorbia esula*): much taller and robust, with fewer, wider leaves than Cypress Spurge. It is also invasive.

Vectors of Spread: Cypress Spurge can be locally spread by vegetative reproduction through its root system, but long-distance dispersal occurs through the transport of seeds. Wind predominantly spreads the seeds, but water, animals, and humans (via clothing, equipment, vehicles) may also aid in their spread.

WHAT CAN I DO?

Cypress Spurge has only been rarely sighted in Whistler, so PREVENTION of further spread and ERADICATION are key:

- Regularly monitor properties for weed infestations.
- Ensure soil and gravel are uncontaminated before transport.
- Don't unload, park, or store equipment or vehicles in infested areas; remove plant material from any equipment, vehicles, or clothing used in such areas and wash equipment and vehicles at designated cleaning sites before leaving infested areas.
- Minimize soil disturbances (e.g. use grazing plans that prevent soil exposure from overgrazing), and use seed mixes with dense, early colonization (e.g. alfalfa or barley) to re-vegetate exposed soil and resist invasion.
- Ensure plants (particularly flowering heads or root fragments) are bagged or covered to prevent spread during transport to designated disposal sites (e.g. landfill). **Do not compost.**

Cypress Spurge can be controlled by:

- **Mechanical Control:** Regular mowing or tilling to reduce weed progression can adequately control the first bloom; however, this can also stimulate new growth. If attempting to control Cypress Spurge mechanically, it is important to consistently mow the area (approx. every 21 days).
- **Chemical Control:** Picloram on small infestations, or a combination of picloram and 2,4-D applied before flowers emerge. However, note that picloram is not suitable for wet coastal soils. Alternatively, annual applications of dicamba and 2,4-D, or monthly applications of glyphosate. We recommend that any herbicide application is carried out by a person holding a valid BC Pesticide Applicator Certificate. Before selecting and applying herbicides, you must review and follow herbicide labels and application rates; municipal, regional, provincial and federal laws and regulations; species-specific treatment recommendations, and site-specific goals and objectives.
- **Biological Control:** Flea beetle (*Aphthona cyparissiae*), grazing by sheep and goats.

If you suspect you have found Cypress Spurge anywhere in the Sea to Sky region:

Contact the Sea to Sky Invasive Species Council to report and for the most recent, up to date control methods. All reports will be kept confidential.

References: Government of British Columbia, USDA, US Forest Service.

IMPACTS

Ecological:

- Destroys native grasslands biodiversity.
- Displaces wildlife and livestock by eliminating forage areas due to dense colonies.
- Crowds out pastures.
- Decreases moisture and nutrients in soils.

Economic:

- Reduces abundance of desirable vegetation.
- Reduces cattle grazing and hay production capacities.

Health:

- Contains a milky latex that can irritate the skin of humans and irritate skin and mouths of livestock.



REPORT SIGHTINGS

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