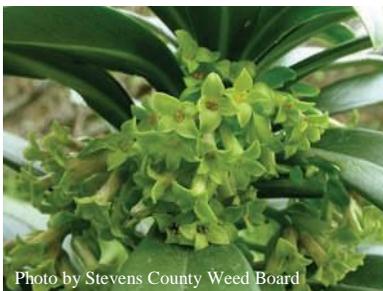


SPURGE LAUREL

CONTROL REQUIRED IN SAN JUAN COUNTY

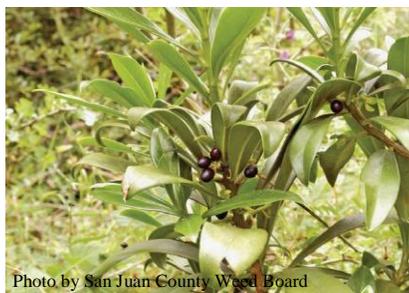


Spurge Laurel (*Daphne laureola*) is an escaped garden ornamental that is rapidly naturalizing throughout San Juan County. It poses a particular threat to Garry oak woodlands and evergreen forests, shading out natives and suppressing forest regeneration. Strongly toxic (as are all *Daphnes*), the sap can cause contact dermatitis, and if ingested, severe gastric distress. Berries may be fatal if several are eaten by a child. *Daphne* is also poisonous to livestock, dogs and cats.



BE SURE OF YOUR IDENTIFICATION:

Spurge laurel is a small shrub (typically 2 to 4 ft tall) with glossy, leathery, evergreen, long, narrow leaves alternately and spirally arranged along branches. Clustered small green/yellow flowers, found in the axis of the leaves, bloom between March and May. Sometimes this plant is confused with English or Portugal laurel, *Pieris* spp., azaleas, and immature rhododendrons.



Spurge laurel may be distinguished from most other ornamental but non-invasive *Daphnes* by:

- ⇒ Yellow-green (rather than white, mauve or pink) flowers
- ⇒ Blue-black (rather than red) berries

TO REMOVE SPURGE LAUREL FROM YOUR PROPERTY:

- ◆ Wear protective clothing, including long pants, long sleeves, gloves and eye protection.
- ◆ If exposed to sap, wash affected areas with warm water and soap.
- ◆ Work in the winter or spring before berries ripen to reduce spreading by seed.
- ◆ Use a weed wrench (available on loan) to remove plants from the ground or use a saw or loppers to cut plants below soil level, below where the root color changes from brown to orange.
- ◆ Pull or dig out seedlings.
- ◆ Applying an herbicide to a freshly cut stump will help insure against resprouting.
- ◆ For herbicide advice contact the San Juan County Noxious Weed Program.
- ◆ DO NOT BURN DAPHNE RESIDUE.
- ◆ Monitor regularly for regrowth.

For landscape alternatives to Spurge Laurel, consult the pamphlet “Garden Wise: Non-invasive Plants For Your Garden,” available at no cost from the Noxious Weed Control Program or the Master Gardeners Program.

SAN JUAN COUNTY NOXIOUS WEED CONTROL PROGRAM
POST OFFICE BOX 1634
62 HENRY ROAD, #26
EASTSOUND, WA 98245
(360) 376-3499
info@sanjuanweeds.org