



Whatcom Weeds

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 322 N. Commercial St Bellingham WA 98225
(360) 778-6234 www.whatcomcounty.us/914/Weeds

PETTY SPURGE

Euphorbia peplus

THREAT: Petty spurge is a native of Europe. It prefers moist, shady sites, and is often found in flowerbeds and around shrubs. Petty spurge spreads by seed and can produce several generations in a season. The milky sap is toxic and can cause dermatitis and severe irritation to the eyes.

DESCRIPTION: Petty spurge is a winter or summer annual which grows up to 18 inches tall. Lower leaves are ovate or round and grow up to 1 inch long. The upper leaves are smaller and roundish. It has very small, greenish-yellow flowers that bloom from the spring through the summer.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Petty spurge can be controlled through mechanical and chemical treatments. Small infestations can be dug or pulled by hand. Be sure to wear gloves, to protect skin from the sap, and do not get the sap in the eyes. Contact the Weed Control Board for site-specific chemical recommendations.



Photo: Luigi Rignanese, 2005