

Spurge laurel

Daphne laureola

Thyme Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ An evergreen shrub branching from the ground; it ranges from 1 ½ - 4 ½' tall
- ❑ It has small, tubular, sweet smelling, yellow-green, 4-lobed flowers
- ❑ Fruits are small green and egg shaped, turning black later in the season
- ❑ The shrubs have glossy, leathery leaves that are narrowly oval & clustered near the top of the stems



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Biology and ecology

- Spurge laurel is a perennial shrub
- All plant parts are toxic to humans, dogs, and cats, but the berries can be eaten by birds
- This plant is a native species of England, Wales, and the Channel Islands; it is also native in some African countries
- It has escaped ornamental plantings but is no longer widely sold by the nursery industry
- It grows well in drained, loamy clay soils that are neutral to slightly acidic & tolerates dense shade



Photos above & below courtesy Alison Halpern, WSNWCB, 2006

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; start monitoring early in the season

Biological - There is an aphid in New Zealand, the *Myzus persicae*, that carries the *carlavirus* to which the plant is said to be susceptible

Cultural - Planting grass or another cover crop can help keep seeds from germinating

Mechanical - Young plants can be pulled; Plants that are 3 years or younger can be cut off with a 95% mortality rate (make sure to wear protective gloves) older plants should be cut below the soil line

Chemical - There are no specific chemical recommendations for spurge laurel but the brush control portion of the: [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) may be useful



Where found - There are currently no known infestations in Stevens County