

## Y. Cypress Spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*)

### **Key Characteristics:**

Cypress Spurge is a member of the Spurge family. It is a perennial that reproduces by both seed and an extensive creeping root system. Leaves are alternate, numerous, small, and narrow. **Stems** are very branched toward their upper ends and reach 4-32 inches in height. When severed, **stems secrete a milky latex** that is toxic to horses and cattle and caustic to human skin. Heart-shaped, leaf-like **bracts** form below inconspicuous flowers. These **bracts** are yellowish-green early in the season, turning reddish-green toward maturity. **Flowers** are yellowish-green and form at the tips of the main stem and upper branches.



### **Locations:**

Cypress Spurge is known to exist in two small patches on private land in Old Snowmass. It appears to have been planted as an ornamental.

### **Biological control:**

None available at this time. Note that the Colorado Department of Agriculture does not accept Biological Control as an acceptable method for List A noxious weed species.

### **Cultural control:**

Do not plant Cypress Spurge! Maintain healthy native vegetation to prevent infestation. Survey your land regularly to detect new invaders. Quickly eradicate any new populations.

### **Mechanical control:**

Hand-pulling or digging can be effective when managing new, small infestations and care is taken to remove the entire root system. Tillage may encourage spread by further dispersing rhizomes. When handling plants wear rubber gloves and eye protection to protect yourself from the irritating milky sap.

### **Chemical control:**

Contact Pitkin County Land Management Department for more specific information about herbicide products, application rates, and equipment calibration.

