



TETON COUNTY WEED AND PEST DISTRICT

## Cypress Spurge *Euphorbia cyparissias* L.

Cypress spurge is a member of the Euphorbiaceae or spurge family. It is a rhizomatous root spreading perennial that is generally shorter than 6 inches. It has narrow linear leaves ranging from ½ inch to 1 ¼ inches long. Like most spurges this plant has a waxy leaf surface. The flowers are bright yellow and turn red-brown as the plant matures. It contains waxy latex that can cause rashes in humans, wildlife, and domestic animals.

Cypress spurge is an introduced species originating from Europe. It was likely introduced into the U.S. as an ornamental. In Teton County, this ornamental plant has been found escaping at a local cemetery. Spread is mostly likely to occur through its aggressive lateral roots, and to the lesser extent via seed.

Control of this species may be difficult due to the reduced leaf surface area and waxy cuticle layer on the leaves and stem. However, success is likely due to the low seed viability of this species. Cypress spurge has not shown to be as aggressive as leafy spurge but, still is considered a threat.

**If you find this weed on your property or around Teton County, please report it immediately at 733-8419.**

