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Common purslane

Portulaca oleracea L.

Life cycle

Prostrate, mat-forming summer annual.

Leaves

Cotyledons are oblong, hairless and succulent. Cotyledons and young leaves are maroon-tinted on the undersides. Thick, fleshy, succulent leaves are hairless, spatula-shaped and about 1 inch long or less. Leaves are alternate but appear opposite and are often crowded near the stem tips.

Stems

Prostrate, purplish red or green stems have multiple branches that form circular mats. Stems are thick, fleshy, succulent and hairless and up to 20 inches long.



Common purslane seedling.

Portulacaceae (Purslane family)

Common purslane *continued*

Flowers and fruit

Small, yellow, star-shaped flowers with five petals are produced in the leaf axils, opening only on sunny mornings. Fruit are egg-shaped capsules that split around the middle, scattering many tiny, black, shiny seeds.

Reproduction

Seeds.



Common purslane fruit.



Common purslane plant.

Portulacaceae (Purslane family)