

Prostrate spurge

Chamaesyce humistrata (Engelm. ex Gray) Small

Life cycle

Prostrate summer annual.

Leaves

Cotyledons are oval with maroon undersides and short petioles. Opposite, pale green, egg-shaped leaves with rounded tips have small, irregular teeth along the margins and short petioles. The upper leaf surface often has a maroon watermark.

Stems

Prostrate, densely hairy stems are highly branched from the base, forming circular mats up to 16 inches in diameter. Stems may root at the lower nodes and exude a milky sap when damaged.

Flowers and fruit

Inconspicuous flowers are formed in the leaf axils. Fruit are hairy, three-lobed capsules that contain three wrinkled, three-sided, pale brown seeds.

Reproduction

Seeds.



Prostrate spurge seedling.

Prostrate spurge *continued*



Prostrate spurge plant.



Milky sap of prostrate spurge.



Prostrate spurge fruit.

Similar weeds

Spotted spurge

[*Chamaesyce maculata* (L.) Small]

Differs by having stems that do not root at the nodes, narrow oval to oblong leaves, and ridged, not wrinkled, seeds.