

Erect and Prostrate Spurge Biology and Management in Turf¹

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Erect and prostrate spurges (*Chamaesyce* spp.) are erect or upright annuals with branched stems. Leaves are opposite and not equal. Stems produce “milky sap.” A large number of spurge species occur in Florida. Reproduction occurs via seed.

Prostrate spurge (*C. humistrata*) has freely branched prostrate stems that root at the nodes. Stems are smooth or hairy. Leaves are not symmetrical and usually have a reddish spot.

Erect or Hyssop spurge (*C. hyssopifolia*) is an erect or ascending annual with smooth stems and leaves that branch at upper nodes. Leaves are oblong to linear with toothed margins.



Figure 2. Erect spurge
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Figure 3. Erect spurge
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Figure 1. Prostrate spurge
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Herbicide options for controlling erect and prostrate spurge in Florida turfgrass

(Always refer to the label for specific uses, application rates, and turfgrass tolerance)

Refer to the publication Pest Control Guide for Turfgrass Managers at http://urf.ufl.edu/pdf/2012_UF_Pest_Control_Guide.pdf for brand names associated with chemical names listed.

Bermudagrass

- Preemergence: dithiopyr, dimethenamid-P, isoxaben, simazine
- Postemergence: carfentrazone, 2,4-D+dicamba, dicamba, metribuzin, metsulfuron, sulfentrazone, sulfentrazone+prodiamine, sulfentrazone+quinclorac, sulfentrazone+2,4-D+MCCP+dicamba, thiencazone+i odosulfuron+dicamba, trifloxysulfuron

St. Augustinegrass

- Preemergence: atrazine, dithiopyr, dimethenamid-P, isoxaben, simazine
- Postemergence: atrazine, carfentrazone, 2,4-D+dicamba (follow label recommendations to minimize turf injury), metsulfuron, simazine, sulfentrazone, thiencazone+i odosulfuron+dicamba

Centipedegrass

- Preemergence: atrazine, dithiopyr, dimethenamid-P, isoxaben, simazine
- Postemergence: atrazine, carfentrazone, 2,4-D+dicamba, dicamba, metsulfuron, simazine, sulfentrazone, sulfentrazone+prodiamine, sulfentrazone+quinclorac, sulfentrazone+2,4-D+MCCP+dicamba, thiencazone+i odosulfuron+dicamba

Bahiagrass

- Preemergence: dithiopyr, dimethenamid-P, isoxaben
- Postemergence: carfentrazone, 2,4-D+dicamba, dicamba, sulfentrazone, sulfentrazone+prodiamine, sulfentrazone+2,4-D+MCCP+dicamba

Seashore paspalum

- Preemergence: dithiopyr, dimethenamid-P
- Postemergence: carfentrazone, sulfentrazone, sulfentrazone+prodiamine, sulfentrazone+quinclorac

Zoysiagrass

- Preemergence: atrazine, dithiopyr, dimethenamid-P, isoxaben, simazine
- Postemergence: atrazine, carfentrazone, 2,4-D+dicamba, dicamba, metsulfuron, simazine, sulfentrazone, sulfentrazone+prodiamine, sulfentrazone+quinclorac, sulfentrazone+2,4-D+MCCP+dicamba, thiencazone+i odosulfuron+dicamba, trifloxysulfuron

Perennial ryegrass

- Preemergence: dimethenamid-P
- Postemergence: carfentrazone, 2,4-D+dicamba, dicamba, sulfentrazone, sulfentrazone+prodiamine, sulfentrazone+quinclorac, triclopyr +clopyralid