

Spurge Laurel

This toxic noxious weed threatens forest ecosystems.

Spurge laurel (*Daphne laureola*) is a Class B-Designate noxious weed in Lewis County. **There is a known infestation of spurge laurel surrounding Ike Kinswa State Park.** Do your part and report sightings to the Lewis County Noxious Weed Control Program.

Spurge laurel is an evergreen shrub native to Europe. Its alternate leaves are narrowly oval, smooth, dark green, and shiny on the top. Flowers bloom March through May and are small and very fragrant. Growing up to 5 feet tall, it can form monoculture stands that outcompete native vegetation in forest understories. It develops little black fruits that birds eat and spread.

All parts of spurge laurel are toxic. Sap from cut plants can cause severe rashes.



This large patch of spurge laurel was found growing near Ike Kinswa State Park. Given how easily spurge laurel spreads through seed, we suspect it is present throughout the forest.



**SPURGE
LAUREL**

DON'T CONFUSE WITH NATIVE PACIFIC RHODODENDRON

Spurge laurel is sometimes confused with immature **Pacific rhododendron**. Spurge laurel has waxier and darker green leaves. Its berries and flowers are hidden under and amongst its leaves, whereas rhododendrons flower are at the tips of their stems.



**PACIFIC
RHODODENDRON**

Report Sightings to Lewis Co. Weed Control at weeds@lewiscountywa.gov or **(360) 740-1215**