

MANAGEMENT

Scouting for spurge is important for control and growers need to remove it and any other weeds soon after they appear. Growers also need to check that planting material is free of weeds and plant only in weed-free substrates.

PHYSICAL & CULTURAL CONTROL

Use hand weeding or mechanical tilling to remove spurge plants before they set seed. Remember to wear gloves while hand weeding because the plant sap is a skin irritant (Landschoot et al., 2020).

The following practices will help control the spread of spotted spurge:

- Avoid walking through spurge mats.
- Avoid raking uprooted or mature spurge plants across the soil surface and dispose of dead spurge plants carefully.
- Wash or otherwise clean tools after each use to remove any spurge seeds.

- Keep irrigation systems in proper working order to avoid creating unwanted wet areas that promote spurge infestations (Young, 2012).
- Mulch nursery containers with organic materials such as shredded bark, compost, or straw up to 2 inches deep to help suppress seed germination (Molinar et al., 2009).

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Spotted spurge can be controlled with preemergence or postemergence herbicides that are labeled for such use. Always read and follow the label directions. Always wear the recommended personal protective equipment when working with pesticides.

Preemergence Control

Preemergent herbicides that are labelled for controlling spotted spurge must be applied before seeds have germinated because they don't work after seeds have germinated or seedlings have emerged. Preemergent herbicides are most

Table 1. Preemergence herbicides that are labeled for use in ornamental crop production and have shown good control of spotted spurge (*Chamaesyce maculata*).

Common name (active ingredient)	Trade names & formulations	Container & field production	Greenhouse or fully enclosed structures
Dithiopyr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dimension 2EW ▪ Dithiopyr 40WSB 	Yes	No
Isoxaben	Gallery 75DF	Yes	No
Pendimethalin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pendulum 3.3 EC ▪ Lesco Pre-M ▪ Lesco Pre-M AquaCap 	Yes	No
Prodiamine	Barricade 4FL	Yes	Yes
Prodiamine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Barricade 65WG ▪ Prodiamine 4L ▪ Prodiamine 65WG 	Yes	No

Note. See manufacturers' label for application method and timing, dose, safety recommendations, restrictions, and storage of herbicides. Adapted from *Lawn and Turfgrass Weeds: Spotted Spurge* —*Chamaesyce Maculata L.*, by P. Landschoot, T., Abbey, and T. Delvalle, 2020, "Management and Control" section (<https://bit.ly/34XbLzq>).

