

## Spurge Laurel

*Daphne laureola* L.

### Description

This species is an evergreen shrub growing up to 3 feet tall. Leaves are crowded around the twigs and are oblong-lance shaped,  $1\frac{1}{4}$ –5 inches long and  $\frac{1}{2}$ – $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches wide, dark glossy and green above, lighter beneath, and narrow at the base. Flowers are yellowish-green,  $\frac{1}{4}$ – $\frac{1}{3}$  of an inch long, and occur in dense axillary clusters in early spring. Fruits are oval and black.



KULAK photo by Paul Brusselen

### Similar Species

It is unlikely that spurge laurel would be confused with another species in Alaska. This species is not yet in Alaska but is now widespread in coastal British Columbia.

### Management

Hand-pulling followed by planting of native species has been recommended in forest habitats, while areas of less dense vegetation should be targeted for immediate uprooting and clipping (Percival 1997).

### Notes

The Latin name of this plant is the title of a play from 1977 in Britain. This plant originated in Eurasia. While considered very poisonous, it contains various compounds that are being investigated for anti-leukemia effects.



UAB, Unitat de Botànica

Family: Thymeliaceae

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*KULAK photo by Paul Busselen*