

Do You Know What You Grow?

Meet *Daphne laureola* commonly known as Spurge laurel– you might even have it growing in your garden even though it is on the list of noxious, invasive plants in BC, and other places.

WARNING! CAUSTIC SAP & POISONOUS BERRIES!

- The bark, sap and berries of all *daphnes* are **toxic to humans** and small animals (but not birds); the sap is a skin irritant.
- *Daphne laureola* spreads very easily thanks to hungry birds who eat the berries and drop fertilized pellets to the ground.
- This thug likes to colonize shady, moist areas of our ecosystems, replacing native vegetation and forming a dense canopies blocking out light to other native vegetation.
- *D. laureola* sprouts up in many local gardens – often mistaken for Rhododendron or other kinds of desirable landscape plants “...but it is so pretty and evergreen” – they say.
- *Daphne laureola* is listed with the Canadian Poisonous Plants Information System, Work Safe BC Toxic Plant Warning & the Invasive Species Council of BC!

Removal

- Daphne seedlings can be pulled out by the root. Larger specimens can be eradicated using large loppers to cut below the soil level.
- Watch for sprouting from the root, and dig out as much as you can. Be sure to wear protective clothing and gloves – and please don't ask your kids to help you with this weeding project!

For more information:

1. (www.mgabc.org search: Daphne)
- <http://www.mgabc.org/content/dangerous-garden-thug-exposed-daphne-laureola>

2. (google: worksafe bc Daphne)
- http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/health_and_safety/bulletins/toxic_plants/assets/pdf/tp0601.pdf

3. (google: invasive species daphne or spurge)
- <http://www.bcinvasives.ca/invasive-plants/spurgelaureldaphne>