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PROSTRATE SPURGE

(*Euphorbia supina*)



Prostrate spurge (6) is an annual which reproduces by seed only. It is sometimes called milk purslane and spotted spurge. Common throughout the eastern and middle western states, it is found less frequently along the Pacific Coast.

Growth of prostrate spurge in lawns, gardens, fields, and waste places causes the plant to form dense mats of branches radiating from the central taproot. One plant can cover a square foot.

Stems are succulent, slightly reddish, and somewhat hairy. Stems have a milky sap. This sap causes a rash reaction if brought in contact with skin of sensitive persons.

Leaves are opposite on the stem, simple, and oblique (each leaf margin is not the same length). There is usually a reddish-brown spot on the leaf surface.

Small inconspicuous flowers (7) borne in the leaf axils produce many tiny black seeds (8).

The root is a taproot and can be pulled up easily when the soil is wet.

Prostrate spurge will grow well under trampling where foot traffic has destroyed other grasses. As long as there is healthy vigorous turf, prostrate spurge will not have a chance to invade.

Disodium monomethyl arsonate (DMA) and silvex applied to turf 2 to 3 times when spurge is actively growing will control it.

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mechanical damage to frosted turf; early spring because of melted water trapped on the surface by frozen soil layers beneath). "Frosted turf can be corrected by light irrigation before play, but when frost is bad and danger is great in fall, or when soil is waterlogged in spring, the grounds should be closed off," Dr. Skogley suggested.

A panel of superintendents who had had experience with automatic irrigation systems offered some words of advice to others who wished to develop systems of their own. Donald Wright, Camargo Club, Cincinnati, Ohio, feels irrigation equipment is a luxury for a golf course, but moneysaving in the long run.

Measure More Than Greens

"Measure the area you want watered, not just the green surface, and be certain the irrigation heads are positioned in the center of fairways," Wright advised.

"Poor distribution has been a problem in the West," Walter Boysen, Sequoyah Country Club, Oakland, Calif., offered, "because too many sprinkler heads are attached to too few control valves. Also, we've had complaints that there were too few quick-coupler hose attachments around greens for hand watering."

"It's very important to make certain the contractor for digging the trenches is on the job when the pipe is ready to be laid," Thomas Topp, Bellevue Country Club, Syracuse, N. Y. advised. He indicated that those who let the bids should feel assured that the company which gets the contract to dig trenches is adequately equipped to fulfill the job.

"Put soil back on top of the pipe and tamp it in," Wright suggested. "It will make a bed for the electrical wire and make certain that the ground will not sink."

"We found that we interrupt some natural drainage channels underground when we dig trenches for piping," Boysen revealed, "and we've gotten some water pockets which we can't explain any other way."