

# Have you seen this invasive plant?

**Spurge flax** is a fast spreading herbaceous annual that is very difficult to find and control.

*Learn more at [www.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov)*

Spurge flax is a slender, wiry plant that can grow up to 2 feet tall and has a fibrous taproot. It grows as one main stem, or has branching stems in the upper part of the plant.



Leaves are alternately arranged on the stem, small and narrow and taper to a point.



Plants turn red in the fall before they die.



Tiny (2-3mm), tubular, yellowish green flowers form at leaf bases. They have 4 petal-like sepals and bloom as early as April. Plants produce small black seeds.



## Why is spurge flax (*Thymelaea passerina*) a noxious weed?

- Spurge flax is hard to find growing among other plants and difficult to control, allowing infestations to aggressively expand undetected.
- Livestock will not graze this invasive plant.

## Where do you find spurge flax?

- Spurge flax grows in rangeland areas, disturbed sites and dry pastures. In Washington, it is only known to occur in Okanogan County.
- Seeds appear to be spread by wildlife such as deer and wild turkeys, and by off-road vehicles and equipment.

## What can you do?

- Learn to identify this Class A noxious weed.
- Clean off shoes, clothing and other equipment that may carry seeds from weed-infested areas.
- Contact your county weed board for plant identification assistance and to learn how to remove it from your property.
- Report any sightings to your county noxious weed control board or to [noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov](mailto:noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov).

