

## **Comparative Seed Manual: EUPHORBIACEAE**

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This seed manual consists of photos and relevant information on plant species housed in the Integrative Subsistence Laboratory at the Anthropology Department, University of California, Santa Barbara. The impetus for the creation of this manual was to enable UCSB graduate students to have access to comparative materials when making in-field identifications. Most of the plant species included in the manual come from New World locales with an emphasis on Eastern North America, California, Mexico, Central America, and the South American Andes.

### Published references consulted<sup>1</sup>:

1998. Moerman, Daniel E. *Native American ethnobotany*. Vol. 879. Portland, OR: Timber press.

2009. Moerman, Daniel E. *Native American medicinal plants: an ethnobotanical dictionary*. OR: Timber Press.

2010. Moerman, Daniel E. *Native American food plants: an ethnobotanical dictionary*. OR: Timber Press.

### Species included herein:

*Euphorbia corollata*

*Euphorbia cyathophora*

*Euphorbia dentata*

*Euphorbia heterophylla*

*Euphorbia marginata*

*Euphorbia marginata* var *Kilimanjaro*

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<sup>1</sup> **Disclaimer:** Information on relevant edible and medicinal uses comes from a variety of sources, both published and internet-based; this manual does **NOT** recommend using any plants as food or medicine without first consulting a medical professional.

*Euphorbia corollata*



**Family:** Euphorbiaceae

**Common Names:** Flowering spurge, Native baby's breath, Redneck baby's breath, Carolina snow

**Habitat and Growth Habit:** This species is native to Eastern North America and is found in prairies, well-drained soil, savannas, limestone glades, stabilized sand dunes, agricultural land, open woodlands, and roadsides. It is noted to live in natural and disturbed habitats.

**Human Uses:** Flowering spurge has been used in Native American medicine. For instance, Cherokee have used this species for treatment of cancer, pinworms, urinary tract infections, and more. However, some sources note that this species has poisonous and toxic qualities.

**Sources Consulted:**

[http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/flw\\_spurgex.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/flw_spurgex.htm), accessed November 13, 2019.

<https://www.prairiemoon.com/euphorbia-corollata-flowering-spurge-prairie-moon-nursery.html>, accessed November 13, 2019.

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=EUCO10>, accessed November 13, 2019.

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=euco10](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=euco10), accessed November 13, 2019.

<http://www.midwestgroundcovers.com/plant/Euphorbia-corollata-NGN>, accessed November 13, 2019.

[https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/euphorbia\\_corollata.shtml](https://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/plant-of-the-week/euphorbia_corollata.shtml), accessed November 13, 2019.

<https://www.plantdelights.com/products/euphorbia-corollata-carolina-snow>, accessed November 13, 2019.

*Euphorbia cyathophora*



**Family:** Euphorbiaceae

**Common Names:** Catalina, Wild poinsettia, Dwarf poinsettia, Summer poinsettia, Poinsettia, Fire on the mountain, Mexican fire plant, Painted leaf, Painted leaf spurge, Painted spurge

**Habitat and Growth Habit:** This species is native to tropical regions of North America and may be native to Central America, South America, and the Caribbean. This species was introduced to Australia and Asia. It is found in dry open area and disturbed areas. Additionally, Catalina is a weed of disrupted areas, coastal environments, and island environments.

**Human Uses:** This plant has ornamental and gardening (although it can be invasive) value. As well, the reddish colored leaves are often used.

**Sources Consulted:**

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=EUCY](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=EUCY), accessed November 13, 2019.

<https://www.prairiemoon.com/euphorbia-cyathophora-fire-on-the-mountain-prairie-moon-nursery.html>, accessed November 13, 2019.

[https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/euphorbia\\_cyathophora.htm](https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/euphorbia_cyathophora.htm), accessed November 13, 2019.

*Euphorbia dentata*



**Family:** Euphorbiaceae

**Common Names:** Toothed spurge, Green poinsettia, Toothed-leaf poinsettia

**Habitat and Growth Habit:** This species is native to North America (the United States) and Mexico. It can be found in prairies, limestone glades, and disturbed areas. Notably, this species favors disturbed regions. As well, some sub-taxa may be native while others may be introduced.

**Human Uses:** Uses for this particular species are not well documented at this time.

**Sources Consulted:**

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=EUDE4>, accessed November 13, 2019.

[http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/tooth\\_spurgex.htm](http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/prairie/plantx/tooth_spurgex.htm), accessed November 13, 2019.

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=EUDE4](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=EUDE4), accessed November 13, 2019.

<https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/toothed-spurge>, accessed November 13, 2019.

*Euphorbia heterophylla*



**Family:** Euphorbiaceae

**Common Names:** Mexican fire plant, Painted spurge, Milkweed, Desert Poinsettia, Wild poinsettia, Fiddler's spurge, Yellow spurge

**Habitat and Growth Habit:** This species can be found in Southern USA, Central America, and other tropical and subtropical areas. *Euphorbia heterophylla* is often in disturbed sites.

**Human Uses:** Several uses for this plant include ornamental, rubber production, and in traditional medicine. As well, the leaves can be eaten as a vegetable or a form of starvation food when resources are scarce. Notably, this plant is used often in traditional African medicine and other tropical countries. This species contains latex. One of the many notable medicinal uses is a laxative or purgative made from stems and dried leaves to treat stomachache, constipation, and expel intestinal worms.

**Sources Consulted:**

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=Euhe4>, accessed November 13, 2019.

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=Euhe4>, accessed November 13, 2019.

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=EUHE4](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=EUHE4), accessed November 13, 2019.

[https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/euphorbia\\_heterophylla.htm](https://keyserver.lucidcentral.org/weeds/data/media/Html/euphorbia_heterophylla.htm), accessed November 13, 2019.

<http://florida.plantatlas.usf.edu/Plant.aspx?id=908>, accessed November 13, 2019.

<http://tropical.theferns.info/viewtropical.php?id=Euphorbia+heterophylla>, accessed November 13, 2019.

*Euphorbia marginata*



**Family:** Euphorbiaceae

**Common Names:** White-margined sand-mat, Snow on the mountain, Smoke on the prairie, Ghost spurge, Ghost weed

**Habitat and Growth Habit:** This species is native to central North America. It is declared a native species to most of the United States by the USDA. Snow on the mountain prefers calcareous soils, prairies, roadsides, pastures, and waste lands.

**Human Uses:** This species is used as an ornament, chewing gum, a landscape border, and medicine. Special caution is advised for this species as it contains highly toxic substances. Some sources explain that this species can be used to treat leucorrhea and increase breast milk production along with other uses.

**Sources Consulted:**

<https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=euma8>, accessed November 13, 2019.

[https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id\\_plant=euma8](https://www.wildflower.org/plants/result.php?id_plant=euma8), accessed November 13, 2019.

<http://pfaf.org/user/Plant.aspx?LatinName=Euphorbia+marginata>, accessed November 13, 2019.



*Euphorbia marginata* var. *Kilimanjaro*



**Family:** Euphorbiaceae

**Common Names:** Mountain spurge

**Habitat and Growth Habit:** This plant is native to North America and found in prairies along with other habitats.

**Human Uses:** This species is useful as an ornament and in gardening. Along with other plants in this family, it has toxic/poisonous properties.

**Sources Consulted:**

<http://www.missouribotanicalgarden.org/PlantFinder/PlantFinderDetails.aspx?kempercode=b223>, accessed November 13, 2019.

<https://garden.org/plants/view/71546/Snow-on-the-Mountain-Euphorbia-marginata-Kilimanjaro/>, accessed November 13, 2019.