

Featured Perennial

Euphorbia epithymoides – Cushion Spurge, Chrome Spurge

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Eason Horticultural Resources



Photo Credit: Walters Gardens



Photo Credit: Harriett McMillan

Botanic name:	<i>Euphorbia epithymoides</i>
Common name:	Cushion or Chrome Spurge
Height:	12 - 18 inches
Spread:	18 - 24 inches
Light:	Full sun to part shade
Water:	Xeric to average
Soil:	Average garden soils, tolerant of clay soils
Growth Habit:	Mound
How to use:	Beds, borders, rock gardens, containers (USDA zone: 4-9)

Euphorbia polychroma is one member of a very large and diverse family of plants. The perfectly rounded habit and cushiony appearance give rise to its common name Cushion Spurge. While some members of this family can be invasive this particular species absolutely is not! In the late spring bright yellow flowers subtended by electric chartreuse bracts will literally light up the garden for weeks. The cushiony pale green leaves will turn varying shades of red and bronze as the nights cool in the fall giving the garden another colorful display. One selection worth noting is *Euphorbia polychroma* 'Bonfire' brought to us by Blooms of Bressingham. This variety comes up in the spring already touting stunning purple-red foliage that truly showcases the crackling yellow flowers, only to turn even darker burgundy in the fall.

Use as a border plant or in rock gardens with spring bulbs and other spring blooming perennials such as *Cerastium*. This very drought tolerant plant benefits from a cut back when done blooming to maintain a perfect dome shape.



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