

EUPHORBIA PURPUREA (Raf.) Fern.  
Glade Spurge (OH)

FAMILY: Euphorbiaceae

HABIT: Herbaceous perennial to 1 M. from a stout rhizome; flowering May, June; fruiting June, July.

SIMILAR SPECIES: Superficially resembles *Euphorbia commutata* and *E. obtusata*, both of which are frequent woodland spurses in southern Ohio, grow in similar habitats, and bloom at about the same time as *E. purpurea*. Both of these species, however, are much smaller and less conspicuous than *E. purpurea* and can be distinguished by fruit and flower characters.

TOTAL RANGE: NJ, PA, and OH, s. to WV and NC.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): There is a post-1980 record from Pike County. There is a pre-1980 record from Highland County.

HABITAT: Moist woods and openings; streambanks.

HAZARDS: Opening of forest canopy.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Unknown, but possibly good; many related species of *Euphorbia* grow well in cultivation.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect mature specimen, but leave rhizome intact.

COMMENTS: This is a conspicuous species that would be difficult to overlook. However, it might be confused with other woodland spurses that bloom at the same time as *E. purpurea* (see Similar Species). It should be sought throughout southern Ohio. This species seems to be local throughout its total range, with populations widely separated.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

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