

Cushion spurge (*Euphorbia polychroma*)

This lovely 3-season perennial forms a neat mound resembling a cushion. The long-lasting blooms are actually bright yellow bracts appearing early in spring, then fading gradually to green in summer. It looks stunning with blue hyacinths, purple iris or rock cress. The spring foliage is light green and chartreuse, turning green in summer, and red or purple in autumn. Cushion spurge offers a touch of whimsy, yet provides a soft structure that is well-suited to beds, borders or as a ground cover.

Origination: Native to the dry mountain slopes of central and southeastern Europe and Turkey.

Hardiness: USDA Zone 4-9. Herbaceous.

Size: Height: 12 to 18 inches (30 to 45 cm)

Width: 18 to 24 inches (45 to 60 cm)

Growth rate: moderately fast

Light: Full sun to part shade

Care: Low maintenance. Needs moderate moisture and well-drained soil. Drought-tolerant once established. When the yellow bracts have faded to green in summer, cut the plant back by 1/3 to 1/2 to preserve its form and keep it from falling open in the centre.



Precaution: Use protective clothing and eye wear when handling this plant. Direct contact, especially with the milky sap, may cause skin irritation and rash, severe eye irritation, and extreme discomfort if ingested.

Pests: Not generally subject to any pests or diseases. Deer and rabbit-resistant.

Propagation: Divide plants in early spring or fall. To grow from seed, capture ripening seed by placing a bag over the seed heads. Store the seed in a cool, dry, dark place. Start seeds indoors before last frost, or direct seed outdoors after last frost.

