

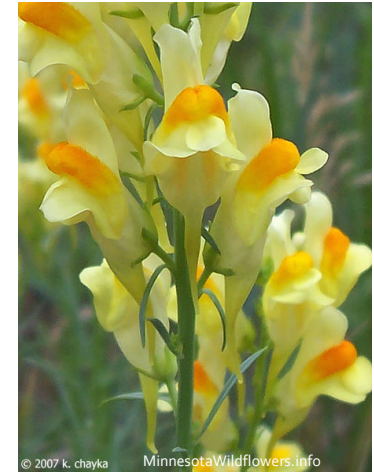
# Cypress spurge + leafy spurge look alike

Cypress spurge (*Euphorbia cyparissias*) and leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*) may be confused with other plants that have linear leaves, including butter and eggs (*Linaria vulgaris*) and whorled milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*).



**Leafy spurge** (top left) and **cypress spurge** (bottom left) are characterized by **alternate, linear bluish-green leaves with milky sap and round clusters of greenish-yellow flowers**. Cypress spurge is overall smaller than leafy spurge.

**Butter and eggs** has alternate linear leaves with **no milky sap**. Its **spikes of pale yellow flowers** make it easy to distinguish from cypress and leafy spurge when in bloom.



**Whorled milkweed** has **whorls of 3-6 linear leaves with milky sap**. The **stem has fine hairy lines** that extend down from the base of leaves, which sets it apart from the **hairless stems of the spurges**.



Clusters of **5-petaled white flowers** are distinct from spurge flowers.