

Daphne  
(*Daphne mezereum*)

**Identification:**

Small deciduous shrub that grows erect and bushy and produces reddish-purple to pink flowers that bloom in stalk-less clusters in late March to early April. Fragrant flowers that are lilac to rose-purple or white emerge before leaves. Flowers grow in clusters of 2-3 and are followed by small fruits, red or yellow drupe, that mature in June. Leaves are alternate, simple, and green in color. The bark, fruits, leaves, and sap of this plant are highly toxic to humans. Prefers full sun in well draining soils.



**Management Techniques:**

Recommended practices are to pull small young plants by hand, wearing protective gloves. Larger plants may require being dug out or the use of loppers and a weed wrench. After removals a deep mulch should be placed over the area and be monitored for seedlings.



**Native Range and Original Introduction:**

Native to central and eastern Europe and Turkey this shrub was introduced to the US in colonial times which resulted in naturalization in Quebec and Ontario, Canada and New England, New York, Ohio, Montana, and Alaska, US.

This plants sap was historically used in cosmetic products until it was discovered that peoples rosy cheeks resulted from blood vessel damage rather than a natural blush occurring from good health.