

STOP THE SPREAD



Leafy Spurge

Euphorbia esula

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LEAFY SPURGE IN MANITOBA IS ESTIMATED TO BE AROUND \$40 MILLION PER YEAR!

UNWANTED PLANTS

Origin

Native to Europe, Leafy Spurge was introduced to North America from ships or as a seed contaminant in the early 1800s.

Status

Leafy Spurge has no natural enemies so it has spread quickly and now occupies approximately 1.2 million acres of prairie in Manitoba.

Impacts

Leafy Spurge is capable of dominating habitats. Infested pasture supports fewer livestock because the plant displaces preferred forages. It spreads through seed and root fragments, which often grow 26 feet into the ground and 15 feet wide. Uncontrolled, it will double in size every 5-10 years.

Where to Look

Infestations are most common in rangelands and pastures where cultivation is absent. It is also common in roadside ditches, wasteland, and abandoned areas. It can still be seen in home gardens.



Look For:

- ◊Secretes a milky latex sap when damaged.
- ◊Lower leaves are smooth green and narrow (2-7.5 cm long).
- ◊Flowers are arranged in numerous small clusters around green to yellow heart-shaped bracts and appear from May to July.

PREVENT FURTHER SPREAD IN MANITOBA

Leafy Spurge is one of the most difficult noxious weeds to control in Manitoba, no single treatment will work. Herbicides are effective if used at the proper time (spring or fall). Hand pulling is ineffective unless patch is very small. Mowing regularly (2-4 weeks) during the early flower stage can prevent seed development.

Report a Sighting:

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Canada

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Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System Manitoba & Saskatchewan

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