

STOP THE SPREAD



THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF LEAFY SPURGE IN MANITOBA IS ESTIMATED TO BE AROUND \$19 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 130,000 acres of prairie in Manitoba.

Impacts

Leafy spurge is capable of dominating habitats. Infested pasture supports fewer livestock because the plant is a irritant. 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 seeding.

Report a Sighting!

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Funding for this project was provided in part by the Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program, a Government of Canada initiative.



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Vision:

Maintain a healthy, bio-diverse landscape through the prevention, early detection, and education and awareness of invasive alien species management practices in order to eradicate or limit further spread.

Goals:

1. **Focus on prevention** and coordination of a system of early detection and rapid response to suppress and investigate possible control or eradication measures of invasive species in Manitoba;
2. **Improve cooperation between stakeholders** including individuals, land owners, resource managers, communities, agencies, industry, stewardship groups and government;
3. **Establish a provincial digital inventory** of existing invasive species throughout the province, as well as those species that pose a significant risk to Manitoba;
4. **Identify and promote coordinated monitoring and research** in Manitoba that supports strategic planning of programs;
5. **Promote public awareness and understanding** in stakeholder groups and public to encourage and support shared stewardship; and
6. **Operate in the spirit of partnership and collaboration** to facilitate communication and information flow internally and externally among provincial counterparts and the international community.

For more information about ISCM or to subscribe to our free quarterly newsletter, please email us at info@invasivespeciesmanitoba.com.