

Weed Hit List

Leafy Spurge



Plant: This plant is very distinctive looking. The leaves resemble toadflax but when the stem is broken, there is a milky liquid. There are many leaves, arranged in an alternate pattern, though spiral patterns have been noted. It is greenish-yellow in colour and once established can take years to bring under control. The root system of leafy spurge extends 20 ft into the soil.

Flowers: The flowers of leafy spurge are strange looking. They are yellowish green to orange in colour and do not have petals. There are two leafy structures (bracts) below the flowers that are heart shaped. Leafy spurge forms a nutlet and once mature, pods explode and seeds can be dispersed up to 5 m.

Where to Find This Weed: This noxious weed is not picky about where it grows, though it does thrive in warmer conditions. It can infest wet and dry soils alike. In a flooded riparian area, seed dispersal can be extensive. Look for leafy spurge along railways, waste areas, roadsides, hay fields and driveways.

This invasive plant is listed in the Alberta Weed Control Act as a Prohibited Noxious Weed. Please call Westlock County Agriculture Services at 780-349-3346 ext. 280 for identification and recommendations.



