

# Leafy Spurge

*Euphorbia esula*



## Where it lives



Leafy spurge is aggressive in undisturbed areas such as pastures and roadsides, especially on sandy and marginal soils.

## Present in Saskatchewan



Leafy spurge is believed to have been transported to North America in the early 19th century; the plant was first recorded in Saskatchewan in the 1930s.

## How to identify



Leafy spurge is an erect perennial plant which quickly emerges in the spring and can reach heights of one metre. The plant contains a milky-white sap, has creeping reddish-coloured roots and yellow-green flowers in summer.

## Perennial weed



The plant is considered a severe perennial weed in the Northern Great Plains of the United States, and in prairie provinces on untilled non-cropland sites.

## Preventing the spread



Stopping the spread of leafy spurge involves eradicating new infestations using herbicide, containing well-established infestations by establishing a perimeter boundary and the introduction of biological control agents such as the *Apthona* flea beetle, sheep and goats.



## Report invasive species sightings

Help reduce the spread of invasive species already present within Saskatchewan.



Invasive species **cost Canada billions of dollars** in losses to forestry, agriculture, fisheries and other industries affected by their impact.