

Leafy spurge

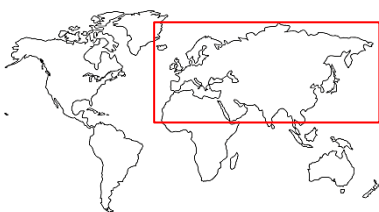
Euphorbia esula

*Compare to *Euphorbia cyparissias*

VERY INVASIVE – emerging in the Arrowhead

Invasive habitat: roadsides, fields, gravel pits, a wide variety of open areas.

Native range: Europe and Asia



Known in the Arrowhead



IDENTIFICATION



Growth form: herbaceous perennial that grows 24-42". Has a white, milky sap when broken, and has very deep roots. Can reproduce vegetatively. Toxic to livestock.



Flowers: 7-10 small flowers with yellow-green showy bracts grow at the top of each stem and bloom June-fall.



Leaves: leaves are alternate, blue-green, and lance-shaped.



Seeds: reproduces and spreads quickly, and with extensive root system is hard to eradicate. Propels seeds up to 15'.

CONTROL



Manual: ineffective due to extensive root system.



Chemical: Perspective, Plateau, 2,4-D are effective.



Prescribed fire: not recommended; plant rapidly regenerate new shoots from the remaining root system.



Biological: 12 biological control agents permitted for use, including 7 beetles, 2 flies, and 3 moths.



Mechanical: will reduce seed production and suppress growth but not eliminate the problem.



Cultural: clean mower blades and any equipment that passes through infested areas.