



# Leafy Spurge

*Euphorbia esula*



- Creeping Perennial
- Grows 3 feet tall
- Contains milky substance in stem
- Extensive root system (20 ft long)
- Toxic to cattle and may result in death
- Seeds can shoot 15 feet from parent plants

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# Suggested Control Methods for Leafy Spurge

## Chemical Control (Herbicides)

**Effective Chemicals:** Picloram, glyphosate, 2,4-D, and dicamba are commonly used.

**Timing:** Fall applications are often most effective, sometimes following spring grazing, with repeat applications over years.

**Application:** Spray beyond the visible patch to target the deep root system (rhizomes).

## Cultural & Mechanical Control

**Mowing/Cutting:** Reduces seed production but offers little long-term control; best combined with herbicides.

**Burning:** Can stress the plant but must avoid the adult beetle season (May-August).

**Reseeding:** Plant competitive grasses to outcompete spurge.

**Hand-pulling/Digging:** Only feasible for very small, new patches due to the extensive root system.

## Biological Control

**Insects:** Flea beetles will feed on and damage the plant, best for large, inaccessible areas.

**Livestock:** Goats and sheep are effective grazers, especially when the plant is young (2-6 inches tall) and before seeding.

## Integrated Strategies

**Best Practice:** Combine methods for best results, such as grazing in spring/fall, followed by herbicide application in fall, and reseeding.