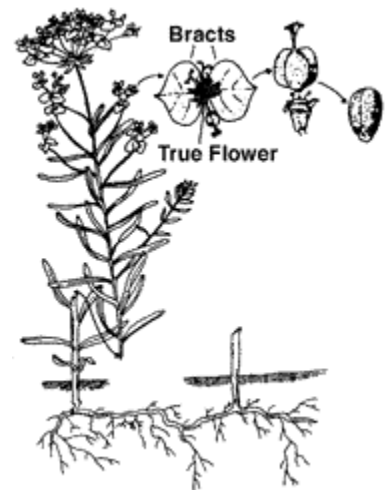


Leafy Spurge Identification

Leafy spurge can grow nearly anywhere, from wet meadows to dry hillsides. It out-competes native plants and animals, and takes over landscapes, changing ecosystems in the process. The roots can grow as deep as 26 feet, and send off new shoots throughout the root system. It also spreads by seed. Plants can shoot their seeds 15 feet.



Leafy



spurge normally grows 2 to 3 feet tall from a woody crown that is below the soil surface. Each crown area produces several upright stems, giving the plant a clump-like appearance. The plant bears numerous linear-shaped leaves with smooth margins. The leaves have a characteristic bluish-green color but turn yellow or reddish-orange in the fall. Stems originating from crown buds and roots begin growth in April, making leafy spurge one of the first plants to emerge in the spring. The early and rapid growth gives leafy spurge a competitive advantage over crop and pasture plants. All parts of the plant contain a milky juice called latex, which is a useful identifying characteristic.

Leafy spurge produces a flat-topped cluster of yellowish-green petal-like structures called bracts, which bear the true flowers.

To report leafy spurge, or for more information, contact...

