



Fact Sheet 98-68

# WANTED— Dead, Not Alive!

This outlaw weed is hiding out! Find it. Eradicate it.

## Leafy Spurge

Alias: *Euphorbia esula*

Leafy spurge, a Eurasian native, was brought to the United States as a seed impurity around 1827. It has spread aggressively in rangelands and other dry areas throughout the northern half of the U.S. and can cause severe irritation to the mouths and digestive tracts of domestic and wild grazing animals. Its spreading and persistent nature makes it a serious problem weed wherever it grows. The seed capsules explode when dry, shooting the seeds as far as 15 feet and the seeds remain viable in the soil for up to 8 years. Leafy spurge is classified as a noxious weed by Nevada Administrative Code.



*This aggressive weed has seed capsules that explode when dry, shooting seeds as far as 15 feet.*



### Distinguishing features:

- ◆ Grows up to 3 feet tall.
- ◆ Flowers are small, yellow-green, and enclosed by a pair of yellowish-green, heart-shaped bracts.
- ◆ Leaves are alternate, narrowly linear with smooth margins,  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch wide, and 1 to 4 inches long.
- ◆ Shoots are erect, pale green and unbranched. Stems and roots have milky latex that is damaging to eyes and sensitive skin.
- ◆ Pink buds capable of forming new shoots and roots are common on crowns and roots.

### Take action:

- ◆ Report its location to the land owner, gardener, manager or park ranger.
- ◆ Explain that this plant is a noxious weed in Nevada and is very invasive.
- ◆ Remove all weed seeds from your clothing, shoes, pets, camping gear, vehicle, and tire treads before moving out of an infested area. Equipment may require steam cleaning before moving to new areas.
- ◆ Monitor xeriscaped plantings, roadsides, and dry, bare areas. Carefully remove any seeds and dig up the plant. Dispose of the seeds, shoots, and roots, all of which can grow a new plant, in a sealed garbage bag through the trash. Herbicides may be available to kill this plant.

### Your reward:

A cleaner, healthier environment and the satisfaction that you have helped make the difference!

### For more information about controlling this and other invasive weeds, contact:

Nevada Cooperative Extension  
775-784-1334;

Nevada Division of Agriculture  
Bureau of Plant Industry,  
775-688-1180; or

Your local Weed District manager or  
Conservation District: