



EGGLEAF SPURGE

Euphorbia oblongata



- ★ Other names: oblong spurge
- ★ Eggleaf Spurge is a Class A weed
- ★ A perennial herb in the Euphorbiaceae Family, Eggleaf Spurge spreads by seed and buds from the root crown, which can produce new stems or roots.
- ★ Eggleaf Spurge grows up to 3 feet tall. Upright stems covered with fine white hairs grow from a woody root crown and branch out at the tip.

★ Egg shaped, oblong leaves are alternately arranged on the stem, and are smooth, hairless, about 2½ inches long, with finely toothed margins. Yellow flower clusters bloom in spring and summer, consisting of all male flowers and one small female flower. Flower clusters have yellow bracts at the base followed by a whorl of yellow green leaves. Seedpods are waxy in appearance and when mature, ripened pods forcefully eject their seeds.

- ★ Eggleaf spurge was introduced as an ornamental, and escaped cultivation. It is highly invasive and competitive and is difficult to control since stems resprout readily from its large taproot. It has the potential to infest pastures, natural areas and riparian areas.

- ★ All plants contain a caustic milky sap when cut, which can irritate skin, eyes and digestive tracts of humans and animals.

- ★ Plants can form dense patches that displace desirable vegetation. It can invade a wide range of habitats including damp meadows, streambanks, forest floors, dry hillsides, roadsides and waste areas.

CONTROL METHODS:

- ★ The most effective control is prevention. Prevent plants from going to seed.



- ✦ Because of its large taproot, this plant must be dug. Be sure to wear gloves when handling plants, to avoid contact with the caustic sap. Mowing will not control eggleaf spurge, because it will cause new shoots to grow.
- ✦ Spot spraying actively growing plants with a *glyphosate* product (e.g. Roundup Pro®, Glyfos®, etc.) up to 3 times over the course of a growing season will provide control. Glyphosate is non-selective and will injure any plants that it comes in contact with, including grass. Spray each plant thoroughly on the stems and leaves, enough to be wet but not dripping. Herbicide applications of *2, 4 D plus dicamba* (e.g. Weed-B-Gone®, Range Star, etc.) when applied in spring at flower emergence, and to fall regrowth is another option for control. Both herbicide treatments may require follow up treatments over several years to achieve complete control.
- ✦ When using herbicides, read and follow all label instructions and obey all label precautions. (Note: pesticide product registration is renewed annually and product names and formulations may vary from year to year.)





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