SLELO PRISM Partners Share These Goals:

PREVENTION
Prevent the introduction of invasive species into the SLELO PRISM region.

EARLY DETECTION & RAPID RESPONSE
Detect new and recent invaders and rapidly respond to eliminate all individuals within a specific area.

COOPERATION
Share resources, expertise, personnel, equipment, and information.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
Collect, utilize, and share information regarding surveys, infestations, control methods, monitoring and research.

CONTROL
Control invasive species infestations by using best management practices, methods and techniques to include:
ERADICATION - Eliminate all individuals and the seed bank from an area.
CONTAINMENT - Reduce the spread of established infestations.
SUPPRESSION - Reduce the density but not necessarily the total infested area.

RESTORATION
Develop and implement effective restoration methods for areas that have been degraded by invasive species and where suppression or control has taken place.

EDUCATION / OUTREACH
Increase public awareness and understanding of invasive species issues through volunteer monitoring, citizen science and community outreach.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management
SLELO PRISM
C/O The Nature Conservancy
(315) 387-3600 x 7725
www.sleloinvasives.org

Get Involved

Report Invasive Species Observations at
www. imapinvasives.org

Join our invasive species **Volunteer Surveillance Network (VSN).**
For details, contact
megan.pistolese@tnc.org

Join our listserv and get notifications for upcoming trainings and workshops.

To join follow these steps:
- **Email** cce-slelo-l-request@cornell.edu
- **Type** "join" in subject space
- **Send** a blank email body

Cover photo: Steve Dewey, Utah State University, bugwood.org. Red leaf photo: William M. Ciesla, Forest Health Management International, bugwood.org. Inside right column bottom right photo of leaves: Noxious Weed Program, Kansas Department of Ag. Inside right column top right leaf photo: Bruce Ackley, The Ohio State University, bugwood.org. Flower photo: https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/flower/leafy-spurge.

SLELO PRISM

St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management

What You Should Know About

Leafy Spurge

(*Euphorbia esula*)

SLELO PRISM

"Teaming up to stop the spread of invasive species"

What is *Leafy Spurge*?

Leafy spurge (*Euphorbia esula*), also known as wolf's milk, is a long-lived perennial native to Eurasia.

It was likely introduced to North America as either an ornamental or crop seed impurity in the early 1800s. It was first discovered in the US in Massachusetts in 1827. Since then, it has spread widely and can now be found covering much of the northern U.S. and prairie regions in Canada.

Leafy spurge is capable of completely taking over large swathes of land by outcompeting native vegetation and reducing the yield of more desirable forage species.

Most livestock avoid grazing sites that have as little as 10% cover of leafy spurge. Below is a photo that demonstrates how abundant leafy spurge populations can become.

How You Can Stop the Spread of Leafy Spurge:

Leafy spurge is on the New York State Prohibited & Regulated Invasive Plants list. You can stop its' spread by not buying or selling this invasive plant.

Control & Management:

Leafy spurge is able to resist multiple types of control, as it is capable of regenerating from small pieces of root. Additionally it produces large numbers of seeds that are viable up to seven years. Therefore, a combination of two or more of the following control methods is best for the successful control of leafy spurge.

Biological Control: 5 species of flea beetles (*Aphthona* spp.) have been found effective. This method doesn't produce immediate results, as it takes several years for the flea beetles to establish effective populations.

Grazing: Sheep and goats, unlike many other livestock species, are unaffected by the normally toxic juices found in the steam of leafy spurge. Grazing will not eradicate leafy spurge populations, but it will weaken the plants by forcing them to re-sprout thus diminishing their root reserves.

Chemical Control: Standard and pre-emergent herbicides are options for control. Areas treated need to be monitored to ensure suppression. Be sure to follow all label directions when applying herbicides.

Leafy Spurge Identification:

Leaves are numerous and attached directly to the stem. They are 1-4 inches in length, narrow, waxy with smooth edges and grow alternately and sometimes in a spiral arrangement. Leaves turn from green to a yellowish–red color in late summer.

Flowers are 1/8th inch in size, yellow-green in color with clusters of rounded petals. Bloom time occurs in June.