

## What is leafy spurge?

Leafy spurge is a non-native invasive plant spreading in the Salt Lake Valley and other parts of Utah. Plants have a distinctive yellow-green cast; white milky sap, and pink nodes on the roots.

In Utah, Leafy spurge is designated a “noxious weed” meaning landowners or managers are legally responsible for its control.. Although leafy spurge is not yet widespread in Salt Lake Valley, it is spreading onto some of our most treasured open spaces and recreational areas including, Big Cottonwood Canyon and the Jordan River Riparian Corridor.



Steve Dewey, USU

# PURGE THE SPURGE

## Why is leafy spurge a problem?



Leafy spurge can grow in just about any habitat, from wet grassy meadows to dry rocky slopes, making it highly competitive with native plants. It is difficult to control not only because of its extensive root system (roots can grow as deep as

26 feet), but also because it spreads quickly by seed. Plants can literally throw their seeds up to 15 feet. Once established in an area it quickly displaces native plant and animal communities, crowding out beneficial native plants and dramatically altering those ecosystems forever. In addition, it is toxic to both humans and wildlife and can cause serious skin irritation and even blindness.

## What can you do?

- Learn how to identify & prevent new infestations

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- Become a weed warrior;  
Report a weed  
(We can't be everywhere at once)

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Thanks for your help