**Leafy Spurge**
**Euphorbia esula**

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## Leafy Spurge

(Euphorbia esula)

The Colorado Noxious Weed Act requires every landowner to **eradicate, contain or suppress this weed** wherever it is found on his or her property. The Colorado Department of Transportation controls these weeds on its right-of-way.

Leafy spurge is a perennial that grows to 1 to 3 feet tall. The roots can extend as deep as 30 feet into the soil and are extremely wide-spreading. The roots are brown and contain numerous pink buds that generally produce new shoots or roots. The stems are smooth, pale green, and thickly clustered. The narrow leaves are 1 to 4 inches long. The small flowers are yellowish-green.

The entire plant contains white, milky sap that exudes readily upon stem or leaf breakage. This sap can damage eyes and sensitive skin. Due to the extensive root system, hand-pulling this plant is not a viable option. More details about this species and herbicides to control it are available online at http://www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds.

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