Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board
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Euphorbia oblongota

WA – Class A Noxious Weed, Prohibited Plant List

OR – Class A Noxious Weed

Eggleaf Spurge

Oblong Spurge, Balkan Spurge

Family: Euphorbiaceae

Origins: Native to Turkey and Southeast Europe. It was first documented in Washington State in San Juan County in 1998. Eggleaf Spurge was introduced as a garden ornamental and has escaped cultivation.

Range: Found in all western states, most central states, and northeastern states.

Habitat: Commonly found in damp meadows, streambanks, shady woodlands, as well as dry hillsides, roadsides, and waste areas.

Impact: All plant parts exude a toxic milky sap when cut; therefore, skin contact should be avoided. Eggleaf Spurge exhibits invasive properties and outcompetes other vegetation. It reproduces by seed and can grow from buds on the root crown and from root fragments. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 8 years.

Description: Eggleaf Spurge is an upright perennial reaching about three feet tall from a woody, branched taproot. Plant stems are covered in fine white hairs and have leaves with finely toothed margins. Leaves are alternate and have a prominent mid-vein. Flowers clusters are made up of small male flowers and one small female flower. Flower clusters have yellow bracts at their base, followed by a whorl of yellowish-green leaves. Flowers bloom in spring and summer. Seeds are held in three-lobed capsules. Seeds are brown and smooth and are ejected from capsules when ripe

Common Look-Alikes: Leafy Spurge, Myrtle Spurge.

This plant is also on the Washington State quarantine list. It is prohibited to transport, buy, sell, offer for sale, or distribute plants or plant parts of quarantined species into or within the state of Washington or to sell, offer for sale, or distribute seed packets of seed, flower seed blends, or wildflower mixes of quarantined species into or within the state of Washington.

Eggleaf Spurge produces a milky latex sap, so care should be taken when handling this plant. If sap contacts skin, make sure to wash that area.

Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

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Non-Herbicide Control

Mechanical (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)	Because of its large taproot, the plant must be dug completely; root fragments left in the ground will resprout. Mowing will result in new shoots growing, and should be combined with herbicide control methods for effective control. Eggleaf Spurge produces a milky latex sap, so care should be taken and skin protection should be worn when handling the plants. If sap contacts skin, make sure to wash skin thoroughly.
Cultural	Eggleaf Spurge capitalizes on disturbance; maintaining healthy, desirable vegetation can prevent infestations. In disturbed areas, heavily reseed or plant desirable species.
Biological	Biological agents are currently not available for Eggleaf Spurge in Washington State.

Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

Glyphosate (Rodeo, Killzall, Kleenup, Roundup)	**Timing:** 2-3 applications must be split at 30-day intervals. **Remarks:** Three split applications are somewhat selective, leaving some perennial grasses. These treatments are suggested when water is near the infested area or when a reseeding of grasses is planned. Applications prevent vegetative growth during the year of application and will prevent seed production during the second year.
2,4-D Ester (Crossbow, Hi-Yield)	**Timing:** Use lower rates to prevent seed formation in the bud to early-bloom stages. Use higher rates in early spring applications. **Remarks:** When mowing is possible, spray 2,4-D on new regrowth 2 weeks after mowing. Re-treatments will be necessary. Avoid drift to sensitive crops.
Aminocyclopyrachlor + chlorsulfuron (Perspective)	**Timing:** Apply to actively growing plants in spring. **Remarks:** Even low rates can kill non-target tree and shrub species, so avoid application within a distance equal to the tree height of the sensitive species.
Dicamba (Clarity)	**Timing:** Apply in spring or early summer. **Remarks:** Dicamba is both soil- and foliar-active. Use on non-cropland only at these application rates. Repeat each year as needed.
Imazapic (Plateau)	**Timing:** Apply in late summer or fall (mid-August through October) before spurge loses its milky sap due to drought or a killing frost. **Remarks:** Add a nonionic surfactant.
Other Listed Chemicals	Fosamine, glyphosate + 2,4-D, and Picloram

* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

This control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), nwcb.wa.gov. Herbicide information from the PNW Weed Management Handbook (ISBN 978-1-931979-22-1) and product labels.