

Have you seen this weed?

Seeds are "cupped" by two yellowish bracts.

Leafy Spurge is a perennial forb that flowers from May-September and reproduces from underground rhizomes and seeds. It is an aggressive noxious weed that spreads rapidly. The stem and leaves of this weed contain a milky latex that is toxic to cattle and horses. For these reasons, Hubbard County is asking landowners to call the Agricultural Inspectors Office if this invader is found on your property. **Stop into our office or call us at 218-732-4270 for help!**

Spreading underground rhizomes result in dense patches.



Leafy Spurge blooms from May through September, and must be controlled before seeds mature.

**Hubbard County
Agricultural Inspector**

101 Crocus Hill Street
Park Rapids, MN [218-732-4270](tel:218-732-4270)

This milky latex is toxic.



Prohibited Noxious Weeds

Leafy spurge - This is an aggressive weed that is poisonous to most livestock and may cause skin irritations for humans when exposed to the sap. Currently there are only a handful of sites identified in Hubbard County where leafy spurge has been found and is subsequently being controlled. Due to the detrimental effects of this weed and its currently small distribution, landowners are **highly** encouraged to take actions to control this noxious weed.



Plumeless Thistle - This weed prefers fertile soils but is capable of adapting to many conditions. Plumeless Thistle infestations suppress natural vegetation and may cause livestock to avoid grazing in infested areas thus reducing the productivity of pastures and hay lands.



Spotted Knapweed Spotted knapweed is common throughout Hubbard County and surrounding areas and the county is taking an active role against the further spread of the weed. It is frequently associated with poor or infertile soil conditions and also a common invader of disturbed sites which have these soils. It may be seen invading pastures, old hayfields, gravel pits and roadsides. Landowners are encouraged to take an active role against spotted knapweed should it be present on their property by contacting their local extension service/agent for methods best suited for control of the weed in their area.



Bull Thistle - This weed may be found in over grazed pastures or in areas that may be recently disturbed. The spiny nature of the weed makes it unpalatable to livestock and thus helps facilitate its spread.



Canada Thistle - This weed can spread rapidly once established and is difficult to remove. Its creeping root stock aids in the spread of the weed and creates dense stands that suppress native vegetation.



Musk Thistle - Due to its high seed production, once established this weed can spread very rapidly. As with the other thistle species, musk thistle tends to invade pastures and disturbed areas suppressing native vegetation.



Purple Loosetrife - This weed is adapted to wet soil conditions. It can invade all types of wetlands and can also infest agricultural ditches, roadsides and fields. One plant can produce as many as 2-3 million seeds per year, making it a rapidly spreading invasive. As with other weeds, it suppresses natural vegetation and can change the habitat of a wetland. Thus displacing a multitude of species that commonly occupy them. If a landowner identifies this weed they are encouraged to contact the Agricultural Inspector as biological controls are highly effective and may be available.



Perennial Sow Thistle - This weed is typically an invasive of many crops. However it can be found in pastures, along roadsides, cultivated fields, woodlands, gardens and other waste areas.



Poison Ivy - In Minnesota the most common variety tends to grow 1-3 inches tall. Poison Ivy releases a compound when damaged that can cause severe skin irritations. It is recommended that rubber gloves and protective clothing be used when controlling this plant. Do not burn any part of this plant as airborne particles will cause severe illness if inhaled.



What can you do?

Each of these prohibited noxious weeds can be controlled using several different methods including chemical, mechanical and biological. Many of the weeds respond differently according to the type of control method being used. Therefore it is important to accurately identify the noxious weeds and contact your local extension agent for the most reliable method in your area.

Remember, one factor is the same for each of these weeds: Control at the right time. It is important to control weeds when they are most susceptible. For example, using chemicals when the weeds are in later stages of development is not as effective as if you spray a new seedling.

We would like to thank Clearwater County Environmental Services for letting us use and reprint their handout.