

## The Noxious Weed Law

The Minnesota Noxious Weed Law was formed in the late 1800s and references MN Statutes 18.76-18.91, its purpose being that "...residents of the state be protected from the injurious effects of noxious weeds on public health, the environment, public roads, crops, livestock, and other property"

It states "A person owning land, a person occupying land, or a person responsible for the maintenance of public land shall control or eradicate all noxious weeds on the land at a time and in a matter ordered by an inspector or county-designated employee". In Otter Tail County, the County Agricultural Inspector enforces the Noxious Weed Law, with assistance from the local townships & cities. We do our best to handle every situation in a consistent manner.

Leafy Spurge is listed on the Control List of the Noxious Weed Law, meaning that it must be controlled by a lawful method that prevents new growth and controls the spread of existing infestations. It's very difficult to fully eradicate a plant, so we ask that you control it & prevent spread as much as possible.

## The Harm of Noxious Weeds

Noxious weeds are problematic because they are highly adaptable to disturbed areas, are able to spread at alarming rates, cause economic damage, and outcompete native vegetation that is important to our unique landscapes throughout Minnesota. Noxious weeds also create problems with soil erosion, diminished forage production on lands used by domestic and wild animals and impact the public in many negative ways. The main differences between a common weed and a noxious weed are that the latter have an enormous capacity for destruction and are very difficult to control.



For questions, comments, or if your interested in receiving biological control please contact your County Ag. Inspector or your Local Township/City Weed Inspector



East Otter Tail County Ag. Inspector

East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District

801 Jenny Avenue SW, Perham, MN 56573

(218) 346 - 4260 x3

## Leafy Spurge

### Identification & Control



Latin name: *Euphorbia esula*

Plant family: Spurge Family

Duration: Perennial

Height: 6 to 36 inches

Preferred soil: Wet—dry, sandy/gravel

Flower: Bright green/yellow

Leaves: Smooth, narrow, alternate

Spreads by: Seed, root