

## Mouse Ear Hawkweed- *Hieracium pilosella*



**General Description:** The plant has a basal rosette of narrow, pointed, hairy leaves with a single, upright yellow flower. Its seeds are purplish black and columnar. Plants spread primarily by stolons that grow along the ground, root and form other plants. It flowers in spring and fall in some climates.

**Why it is Invasive:** Its creeping growth fills in the gaps between other plants forming mats of rosettes which prevent other plants from establishing seedlings.

**Chemical Control:** Some sources recommend early season glyphosate treatment, however our observations indicate that 2% Aquaneat (ai glyphosate) is ineffective (Nathan Johnson pers obs). Milestone VM (ai aminopyralid) at 0.5% gives consistent, effective control. This plant often sets seed if flowers are present when sprayed.

**Detection:** Individuals and small mats are difficult to detect unless they are flowering. Large mats are easy to detect year round. Surveys of known infestations may turn up plants any time of year.

## Leafy Spurge- *Euphorbia esula*



**General Description:** Leafy spurge is an aggressive, deep-rooted perennial, growing to a height of 2-3 feet. Stems arise from a woody root crown just below the soil surface. The stems are tightly clustered and bare narrow leaves that are 1-4 inches long. Leafy spurge produces clusters of yellowish-green bracts, which surround the true flowers. Leafy spurge reproduces by vegetative growth from spreading roots and by the production of large quantities of seeds.

**Why it is Invasive:** Leafy spurge can crowd out native plants and high infestations can produce large amounts of seeds which can dominate a seed bank and pose continued problems regarding efforts to re-vegetate a site or restore native vegetation. Leafy spurge also produces a milky latex that is poisonous to some animals and can cause blistering and skin irritation.

**Chemical Control:** This plant is known to be very resistant to chemical control in part because of a well-developed root system. It is important to use a systemic herbicide. At JBLM we get very consistent, effective control with 0.5% by volume Perspective (aminocyclopyrachlor, chlorosulfuron).

**Detection:** Leafy spurge on JBLM is growing in dense, tall grass. Detection of flowering adults is difficult, and immature, smaller plants even more difficult.

## Spurge Laurel- *Daphne laureola*



**General Description:** Spurge laurel is an evergreen shrub that grows up to 3-4 feet tall. Leaves are oblong, 0.5-1 inch wide, shiny and dark green in color. Spurge laurel blooms in late winter and early spring, producing small tubular, yellow-green flowers. Oval, black berries are produced in early summer. Spurge laurel reproduces both by seed and vegetatively by sprouting from lateral roots.

**Why it is Invasive:** It has the ability to rapidly colonize areas forming dense single-species stands which block sunlight and compete with native plants. All parts of the plant are highly toxic. It poses a threat to native ecosystems, including Douglas fir forests and Garry oak woodlands. It is a major pest in parts of Oregon and British Columbia.

**Chemical Control:** Spot spraying of products containing the active ingredient triclopyr (e.g. Garlon 3A) have been found to be effective. For effective control spray each plant on the leaves and stems until they are wet but not dripping. Treat anytime from bud to late blooming stage.

## References

Pierce County Noxious Weed Control Board. Spurge Laurel.

<<http://piercecounityweedboard.wsu.edu/spurgelaurel2>>; 2014

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Thurston County Noxious Weed Control Agency. Leafy Spurge.

<<http://www.co.thurston.wa.us/tcweeds/docs/factsheet-spurge-leafy.pdf>>; 2014

Washington State Noxious Weed Board. Leafy Spurge.

<<http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/detail.asp?weed=50>>; 2014

Washington State Noxious Weed Board. Mouseear Hawkweed.

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Washington State Noxious Weed Board. Spurge Laurel.

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