

The LSSG strives to increase awareness of leafy spurge among the general public, landowners/managers and governments.

WHO IS THE LSSG?

The Leafy Spurge Stakeholders Group (LSSG), a broad coalition of agricultural and conservation groups and all three levels of government, was formed in the fall of 1998 to examine the issues and impacts of leafy spurge. The Rural Development Institute of Brandon University provides coordination and project management to the LSSG.

WHAT ARE ITS GOALS?

1) To design a process whereby an integrated and comprehensive approach to a province-wide strategy can be effectively and efficiently implemented. It is hoped that the RDI / LSSG partnership will result in the establishment of a centre of excellence for leafy spurge issues and research in the Province of Manitoba; and

2) To design a strategy or strategies to reduce levels of leafy spurge infestation in those areas of the province most severely affected.

STAKEHOLDER MEMBERS
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Canadian Forces Base Shilo
Canadian Wildlife Service
Ducks Unlimited
Keystone Agricultural Producers
Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural
Initiatives
Manitoba Cattle Producers Association
Manitoba Conservation
Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation
Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs
Manitoba Transportation &
Government Services
Manitoba Sheep Association
Manitoba Water Services Board
Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association
Mid-Assiniboine River Conservation District
Midland Vegetation Management Inc.
Nature Conservancy of Canada
Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration
Rural Development Institute
(Brandon University)
Spruce Woods Provincial Park

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LEAFY SPURGE IN
MANITOBA

LEAFY SPURGE
STAKEHOLDERS GROUP

Future Solutions NOW



**BRANDON
UNIVERSITY**
Founded 1899



**RURAL
DEVELOPMENT
INSTITUTE**

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

The LSSG aims to coordinate and provide support to stakeholder agencies in order to enhance and promote research activities and knowledge transfer. This will be accomplished through identifying current and further potential for research activities and demonstration.

Managing Invasive Species: Leafy Spurge Control (Agri-Food Research and Development Initiative, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada) aims to enhance control of leafy spurge in Manitoba by increasing awareness, encouraging the adoption of integrated pest management (IPM) plans, prevention stewardship, and enhancing the biocontrol component.

Bio-Control of Leafy Spurge in Support of Recovery of Species at Risk, Year III (Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk) is concerned with identifying effective bio-control strategies for leafy spurge with the aim of reducing the negative impact on species diversity and species at risk.

Best Practices: Manitoba Municipalities and Integrated Control Strategies for Leafy Spurge (Covering New Ground) aims to increase awareness at the municipal level about the extent and impact of leafy spurge infestation using a combination of demonstration and awareness activities.

Best Practices: Environmental Stewardship by a Private Landowner (Covering New Ground) chronicles the best management practices of a Brandon area farm family towards the preservation of the small white lady's slipper upon their property.

THE PROBLEM

In Manitoba, leafy spurge is an invasive weed species that threatens an estimated 340,000 of acres (LSSG Economic Impact Assessment, 2000). The study estimates that the net economic impacts associated with the leafy spurge infestation in Manitoba may be approaching **\$20 million** per year.

The total annual economic impact on pasture land is estimated at **\$16 million**. An estimated 225,000 acres of grazing land is infested in Manitoba with a potential impact of a reduced herd size of 16,540 head. Leafy spurge costs Manitobans more than **\$5 million per year** in reduced producer income (\$1,940,040 per year) and reduced production expenditures (\$3,104,044).

Potential secondary economic impacts on other business sectors are estimated at **\$11 million per year**. Additionally, land values are potentially reduced by over \$30 million. This brings potential property tax implications for owners of croplands. While taxes on infested acres may reduce, other lands will have to make up the lost revenue.

The LSSG provides to landowners/managers information from which they can design appropriate programs for control and management of leafy spurge on their properties.

LEAFY SPURGE PUBLICATIONS

The LSSG has a number of publications and fact sheets available on the Web at: www.brandonu.ca/rdi/leafyspurge.html

Managing Invasive Species: Leafy Spurge Control Project Report (2006)

Leafy Spurge Control ~ A Best Practice: Cameron, Glenwood, Sifton Weed Control District (2005)

Inventory of Programs, Services and Resources (2005)

Leafy Spurge Prevention and Control: Integrated Pest Management Manual (2002)

Increased Forage Production through the Bio-control of Leafy Spurge (2002)

Bio-Control of Leafy Spurge in Support of Recovery of Species at Risk (2001)

Impact of Biological Control Agents on Leafy Spurge in Manitoba (2001)

Leafy Spurge Field Work – Jiggins Bluff (Ducks Unlimited, 2000)

Economic Impact Assessment (LSSG, 1999)

The LSSG disseminates accurate information about its extent and impact through a coordinated effort of agencies and individuals dealing with and affected by leafy spurge