

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Eggleaf spurge (*Euphorbia oblongata*)

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

DESCRIPTION

- Native to East Europe.
- Upright perennial forb grows to 1 metre tall; multiple stems grow from a woody, branched taproot.
- Stems covered in fine white hairs and branch at the tip, turning red as plant matures (July to October).
- Stems contain a milky, latex sap that can cause skin irritation.
- Flower clusters are yellow and inconspicuous, occurring at terminal tips (March to August). The clusters are formed by a single female flower surrounded by small male flowers. Each cluster has yellow bracts at the base, then a whorl of yellowish green leaves.
- Leaves oblong, hairless (up to 6.5 cm long) with finely toothed margins and distinct midvein. Leaves alternate up single stem, with leaf whorl at base of flowering stems.
- Seeds brown and smooth are held in 3-lobed capsules and ejected when ripe. Green seed capsules are waxy and sticky, turning brown at maturity.



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PRIMARY THREAT: Forms a dense, monoculture and inhibits the growth of beneficial plants.



BIOLOGY & SPREAD

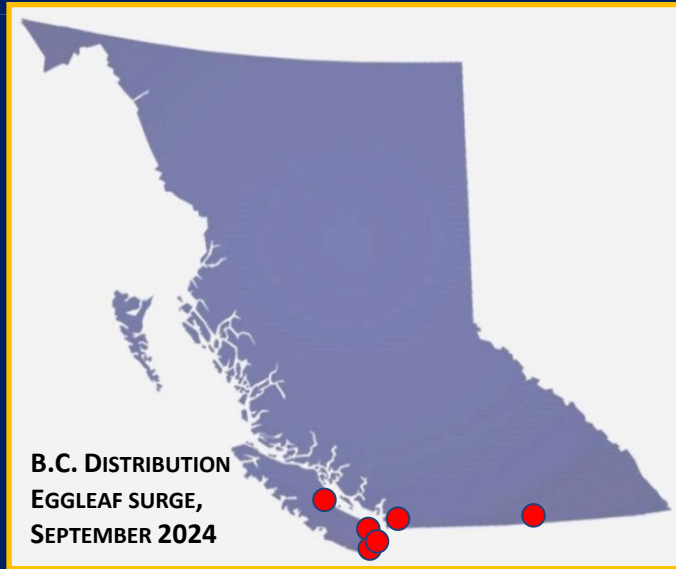
- Reproduces by seed and can generate new stem and root buds at root crown.
- Local dispersal mainly by wildlife, humans and machinery.
- Long distance spread in contaminated seed and machinery, or occasionally as an ornamental.

HABITAT

- Occurs on dry to moist roadsides, grasslands, gardens, streambanks, rocky hillsides, wastelands and forest edges, in open to semi-open canopy.



Eggleaf spurge (*Euphorbia oblongata*)



DISTRIBUTION & Status

- Management goal is provincial eradication.
- Limited occurrences in Greater Victoria and Metro Vancouver, and a single occurrence in Cowichan Valley, Comox Valley, Mayne Island, and the South Okanagan.

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DID YOU KNOW?

- Eggleaf spurge is inedible to wildlife and inhibits the growth of nearby plants, creating bare ground under established infestations.
- The sap of Eggleaf spurge can cause skin irritation or eye damage, gloves should be worn when handling the plant.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Learn** to identify
- **REPORT** new sightings
- **Purchase & Trade** *non-invasive* plants



For more information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content?id=ECF57097F729403A8F2A464EBF09B7FE>



Eggleaf Spurge Identification and Look-Alikes



Eggleaf spurge
Euphorbia oblongata



Mediterranean spurge
E. characias ssp. Wulfenii



Cypress spurge
E. cyparissias



Myrtle spurge
E. myrsinites



Leafy spurge
E. esula

General <i>Milky latex-like sap can be very irritating to skin, eyes and mouth</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect • 30-80 cm tall • Several stems from base, densely hairy, with branching at the tip 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect • 0.6-1.0 m tall <u>and</u> wide • Several stems from base, lower stems woody and smooth, upper stems covered with woolly hairs • Evergreen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect • 15-40 cm tall • Simple below but freely branching above • Hairless stem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prostrate, fleshy, trailing • 10-30 cm tall, 30-45 cm wide • Hairless stem • Evergreen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Erect • 20-90 cm tall • Simple below but freely branching above • Hairless to sparsely hairy stem above
Root	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial, woody, branched taproot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial taproot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial, semi-woody root crown with rhizome 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial taproot 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial, heavy rhizome (6-9 m long)
Leaves <i>Blue-green, hairless, alternate, with single whirl on upper stem</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oblong to elliptic or lanceolate (4-6.5 cm long) • Edges finely-toothed • Prominent midvein • No stipules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linear (10-15 cm long) • Arranged spirally along stems • Leaves dense, crowded and drooping near tips; but sparse or absent near base 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linear shape with lower leaves 1-3 cm long and wide, and leaves of axillary upper branches narrower and more numerous • Edges smooth to slightly wavy, no stipules 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oval to round (1-2.5 cm long), with sharp point at tip • Distinct fleshy, vertical rows on lower stems • Edges scalloped • Small thread-like stipules where leaves attach to stem 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oblong to linear (2-6 cm long, 3-8 mm wide) • Edges smooth • Lowest leaves reduced and almost unstalked • No stipules
Flowers <i>Inflorescences branch in umbrella-like clusters from axil of whorled leaves.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floral bracts opposite or whorled, triangular, smooth or finely toothed. • Involucres bell-shaped, smooth (1.5-2.5 mm) • Glands 4, elliptic (1 mm) • 20-40 staminate flowers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floral bracts form thick bottlebrush-like clusters on stem tips above foliage • Small reddish-brown glands on bract borders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floral bracts oval to heart-shaped (8-16 mm wide) • Involucres bell-shaped (3 mm long) • Glands reddish-green, horned • Inflorescences (25-60 per plant) • 15-25 staminate flowers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floral bracts opposite, triangular to oval, smooth • Involucres green, bell-shaped (4-5 mm) • Glands 4, oblong (1.5-2 mm) • 16 staminate flowers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Floral bracts in heart-shaped pairs (12-16 mm long) • Involucres 2-3 mm long • Glands 4, brownish-green with short horns • 12 to 25 staminate flowers greatly reduced