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## **Field demonstrations of leafy spurge control**

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In October, 1979 and September, 1980, demonstration plots of chemical control of leafy spurge were established in counties in Montana for use as field tour sites the following year. Site selection was based on county agent or county weed district supervisor recommendations. Ten additional tour sites were in areas treated by Extension or Weed District personnel. Herbicides tested included picloram, dicamba and 2,4-D.

Displays were constructed to show statewide leafy spurge infestations, biology of the weed, biological control and demonstration models of roller and ropewick applicators. The displays were constructed in a manner which facilitated rapid set-up in the field. Radio announcements were taped and sent to the radio stations nearest the tour sites several weeks before the tour. Newspaper releases regarding the tours were sent to the county agents for distribution. The tours were also announced in the April issues of the leafy spurge newsletter.

Hot dogs, beer and pop were available at each tour to provide refreshments and act as an "icebreaker." Dow and Velsicol Chemical Companies provided funding for travel expenses and refreshments. In addition these two chemical companies donated herbicides which were given away as door prizes at the tours.

Leafy spurge bumper stickers, designed and printed by Colorworld of Montana, Bozeman, MT, were distributed at the field tours.

Eight field tours were conducted in 1980 and a total of 10 tours were conducted in June, 1981. In addition a leafy spurge booth was set up and manned at a county fair in place of a field tour. Attendance exceeded original expectations. Tours were held for the second consecutive year in two counties due to county agent requests. The Judith Basin tour was part of a statewide weed fair.

The tours provided a link between the university and the producers. People who did not recognize leafy spurge before the tour left with an awareness of the weed and the problems it can cause once it becomes established. The tours demonstrated side-by-side comparisons of chemical control, gave a review of leafy spurge research and offered encouragement that universities are studying the weed and control methods. In addition to the tours, the bumper stickers were sold at winter meetings and the county fair booth. Some stickers were sold to county agents for distribution within their county.