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Collection of native spurge, for screening potentially new biological control agents of leafy spurge

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An item of major concern in the importation of new biological control agents against introduced weeds is the potential adverse impact of the agents upon the native flora, especially plants which are threatened, endangered or being considered for such status. Many of the considerations and possible test species, which were being employed in the USDA-ARS studies of leafy spurge, have been presented by Pemberton, 1984.

To facilitate the screening process, USDA-APHIS has contracted with the Center for Plant Conservation (CPC) for the collection and propagation of various rare and endangered plant species. When sufficient materials are available these plant species will be provided to various researchers and cooperators who are performing the screening research.

The CPC is a private nonprofit organization affiliated with 19 botanical gardens scattered across the United States. The Center is dedicated to conserving rare and endangered plants. Through its affiliated gardens the CPC is presently collecting and propagating several rare endemic species of the genus *Euphorbia*. Species being secured for screening purposes include *E. discoidalis*, *E. exserta*, *E. hooveri*, *E. purpurea*, and *E. telephioides*. These and other related species will be utilized for screening purposes in regards to endangered and or threatened endemic *Euphorbia* species.

References

Pemberton, R. W. 1984. [Native Plant Considerations in the Biological Control of Leafy Spurge](#). Proc. VI Int. Symp. Biol. Contr. Weeds, 19-25 August 1984, Vancouver, Canada, pp. 365-390.