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## **Leafy spurge: A problem in Minnesota roadsides**

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Leafy spurge, a deep-rooted perennial weed, presents a major control problem on Minnesota Department of Transportation roadsides. As desirable roadsides vegetation declines in vigor, weeds such as leafy spurge invade and take over large areas. Traditional methods of weed control are ineffective or unacceptable. Mowing scatters the plants and seed by physically dragging plant portions from one location to another. Control by spraying is questionable because high rates of persistent herbicides are required. All too often, desirable roadside grasses or landscape materials are injured by herbicide applications. Of major concern are the number of small, scattered patches of leafy spurge observed on roadside areas since the drought years of 1989 and 1990.