Biological control of leafy spurge with the use of pathogens

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Pathogenic soilborne fungi have been isolated from insects (or plants which have been injured by insects) which are biological control agents of rangeland weeds. *Rhizoctonia*, *Pythium* and *Fusarium* spp. have been isolated from *Aphthona nigriscutis* or *A. flava* and leafy spurge. Similar results have been obtained in Europe on *Euphorbia* spp. Several bacteria are also associated with insect-injured leafy spurge. Plants of *Centaurea maculosa* and *C. diffusa* in Russian with injuries to the roots and crowns, caused by larvae of three different insects, are also infected by *Fusarium*, *Pythium*, *Rhizoctonia* and other species. The possible implications of these results for biological control will be discussed.