

Reprinted with permission from: 1995 Leafy Spurge Symposium. Fargo, North Dakota. July 25-27, 1995. p. 5.

Sponsored by: Great Plains Agriculture Council and North Dakota State University.

Biological control of leafy spurge in Manitoba – Progress to date and prospects for the future

CARLA L. ALLEN

Weed Specialist, Manitoba Agriculture

Manitoba Agriculture has been involved in biological weed control since 1974. To date more than 25 different insect species have been released on nine different weeds. Most efforts have concentrated on leafy spurge as a number of different agents have been released on this noxious weed. The *Aphthona nigriscutis* and *Aphthona cyparissiae* have provided the greatest suppression of leafy spurge since the first release in Manitoba in 1983. The Manitoba Weed Supervisors Association has been an excellent vehicle for redistribution of insects. As of 1994, there were more than 850 *Aphthona nigriscutis* and more than 250 *Aphthona cyparissiae* release sites in the province. Many of these sites are harvestable and show significant weed suppression. *Lobesia euphorbiana* has successfully established in Manitoba and reduces seed set considerably. Two other *Aphthona* spp. have established in Manitoba: *A. lacertosa* and *A. czwalinae*. Both insects thrive on heavier soil types and *A. czwalinae* has survived spring flooding.