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Department of National Defence's involvement in leafy spurge management to date at Canadian Forces Base Shilo, Manitoba, Canada

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Control of the noxious weed, leafy spurge, has been steadily increasing since the mid 1980's at CFB Shilo training ranges. The use of chemical control has changed significantly during the last decade. Currently only the outer areas of the training ranges are sprayed with 2,4-D Amine. Biological control began at Shilo in 1986 with test plots for biological agents placed in various locations throughout the training ranges. DND has, in the past, actively participated in the research in bringing new biological agents for release by providing monetary support and research data. Research efforts at Shilo are controlled by the weather and access to the training area.

Data sheets listing the topography and vegetation at release sites have been completed and filed with pictures of the release sites. To date, CFB Shilo now has 196 biological release sites throughout the ranges. Concentration of release in the last two years has been in the southern portion of the ranges to prevent the spread of spurge into native mixed-grass prairies which dominate the southern portions. This year, the Base Environment Office will be determining a Standing Operating Procedure for the releasing and monitoring of biocontrol sites based on data collected during the last seven field seasons.