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Biological control of leafy spurge

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Oberea erythrocephala, a cerambycid beetle from Italy, was released last spring on leafy spurge in Oregon and Wyoming. In June, 124 adult insects were caged on leafy spurge near Bonanza, OR. A return trip to that site revealed larval damage, to 23% of stems and roots, of plants previously caged with *Oberea* adults. Two other shipments of *Oberea*. (55 adults in June and 121 adults in July) were sent to Dr. Lavigne for field release in Wyoming. Follow-up on the *Oberea* releases will be made in 1982.

Additional host specificity testing with *Oncochila simplex*, a small lace bug from Italy, was done at the Albany, CA quarantine. Adult survival and nymphal development occurred principally on *Euphorbia* spp. plants. Testing will continue with *O. simplex* on plants related to leafy spurge and economic plants other insects are being studied at the Rome, Italy lab for possible leafy spurge control.

Pathogens with potential on spurge are being studied in Switzerland and Frederick, MD.