

WANTED!



Dear Yellowstone River Ranch Homeowners,

Have you seen this plant?

No! Well look a little closer! Did you know this plant is **ILLEGAL!** Yes **ILLEGAL!** This plant is called Leafy Spurge and it is considered a noxious weed in Montana.

According to §7-22-2116(1), MCA, "It is unlawful for any person to permit any noxious weed to propagate or go to seed on the person's land." Leafy spurge is present in your sub-division, but did you know noxious weeds can decrease property value, completely deplete a native grass population, cause erosion, and can be poisonous. Leafy Spurge checks all those boxes. The milky latex substance in the stems can be toxic to humans, cattle, and horses. Did you know one root of a spurge plant can be 30 feet long? Also, spurge seeds spread themselves 15 feet beyond the parent plant. This is how infestations start.

Why would you want something of this nature on your property? I know it's everywhere in your area. So now you ask what your options are? First off, let's adhere to the law and control this invader. You can utilize herbicide and personally control it yourself. There are certain herbicides that require a license to purchase it, but there are herbicides that don't require a license. Option 2, hire a commercial applicator to spray your property. Your HOA has a commercial applicator to spray the roadsides in the association. The Stillwater County Weed District recommends Mike Larson of Range Rider Land Management to maintain your weeds. Mowing and pulling Leafy Spurge are not recommended methods of control because all that practice will do is promote more growth of Leafy Spurge.

The Stillwater County Weed District is here to help with any initial questions you have. Please call me at 406-322-1106 or email me at stillwaterweed@montana.net. My name is Dana Weatherford and I'm the new Weed Control Sheriff in Stillwater County here to make sure your infestations don't get out of control.