LEAFY SPURGE BEETLE COLLECTION DAYS

When: July 6 - 9, 2026 (4 days), 10AM—3PM

Where: Besant Campground (west of Caronport on Highway #1)

What: Leafy spurge beetles are insects that feed on leafy spurge, acting as a biological control agent for the noxious weed.

The SARM Plant Health Technical Advisors (PHTAs) will be present to provide information and assist in packaging leafy spurge beetles for landowners and RMs to take back to their property for release.

Bring: A cooler and ice packs for transporting beetles, sweep nets (extra nets will be available), water, lunch, and long pants (poison ivy and ticks are found in the area).

Cost: Free to attend

*Dates are subject to change based on beetle emergence and weather. Contact your PHTA prior to travelling to ensure the event dates have not changed.

By attending this event, you are giving permission to SARM to use photographs that may contain your likeness for promotional purposes. Photographs may be shared in print material, on SARM's website, or social media. Please identify yourself to a Plant Health Technical Advisor prior to the start of the event if you do not wish to be photographed.

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What to Know Before Collecting Leafy Spurge Beetles

Where do you plan to release the beetles?

- Beetles will not survive long once collected and packaged and must be released within 24-48 hours for best survival rates, so it is important to have a spot picked out in advance.
- The PHTAs keep a record of beetle releases and will have release forms for you to take, fill out, and return after you release your beetles.

Do you have a suitable release site?

- Leafy spurge infestation of more than 12 acres per quarter section of land.
- Leafy spurge present in areas where herbicide application is not possible (e.g. environmentally sensitive areas).

What are the ideal conditions for collecting beetles?

- Hot days (above 22°C) and calm weather.
- Beetles are normally collected during the hottest part of the day, as this is when the beetles are most active and in the top portion of the leafy spurge plant.

How long will it take to collect beetles?

- In ideal weather conditions, collecting 2500-3000 beetles will take an hour of walking and sweeping with nets.

Contact your SARM Division Plant Health Technical Advisor for more information.

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