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It's a Bugs Life in Arapahoe County

A belly full of weeds satisfies both bugs, property owners in the quest to control pesky plants

LITTLETON, CO --- If you are a Flea Beetle in Arapahoe County, you've got it made. A little leafy spurge, here, much on some leafy spurge there, and you are living the easy life.

In Arapahoe County, we are looking for homeowners who want to rid their property of pesky weeds and make life easy for some bugs with healthy appetites. We are offering free bugs in the battle against leafy spurge – noxious weeds that are hard to control with traditional herbicides.

The County's Weed Control Office is offering Flea Beetles to residents with sizeable amounts (at least a quarter of an acre) of leafy spurge on their property.

The insects have proven to be effective at controlling this noxious weed, often providing better long-term results than traditional herbicides, and the best part – it's safe for the environment. The County has seen dramatic results with the Flea Beetle program since it began using the bugs in 1999.

Flea Beetles eat leafy spurge and kill it by depleting the root, leaving it susceptible to diseases and other forms of stress.

The bugs offer an environmentally safer form of weed control, and are self sustaining with little need for maintenance. They also are safe to release around desirable plants and crops because Flea Beetles specifically eat leafy spurge and nothing else.

Since 1999, more than 75 landowners and local communities have participated in the County's Flea Beetle and program, and the results are successful.

Insects are available on a first-come, first-serve basis at no cost to Arapahoe County property owners. Property owners outside of Arapahoe County may request insects, but priority will be given to Arapahoe County residents. If you are interested in receiving these insects, or unsure if you should request them, contact Weed Control Specialist Russell Johnson at 720-874-6713 or by e-mail at rjohnson@co.arapahoe.co.us.

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