

NOXIOUS WEED FACT SHEET

Dalmatian Toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*)



FAMILY: SCROPHULARIACEAE



Description:

Dalmatian Toadflax is an aggressive perennial weed with an extensive root system. It is an attractive plant with erect stems that can grow up to 3 feet tall. It is also referred to as Butter-and-Eggs

The light-green, waxy leaves are heart-shaped and clasp the stem. Flowers are bright yellow with long spurs and orange-bearded throat that resembles a snapdragon. It blooms from late spring into fall.

Dalmatian Toadflax reproduces both by creeping root stocks and by seed. The horizontal roots produce many buds that form new plants. A mature plant can produce up to 500,000 seeds per year. The seeds can remain dormant in the soil for up to 10 years. The waxy leaf, deep root system and heavy seed production make this a difficult plant to control.

Dalmatian Toadflax is a native of southeastern Europe and was introduced to the United States around 1900 as an ornamental plant because of its snapdragon-like flowers.

Habitat:

Dalmatian Toadflax thrives in coarse, well-drained soils and takes root on roadsides and rangelands, in fields, overgrazed pastures, idle cropland and waste areas. As is common with other invasive species, establishment of Dalmatian Toadflax is favored by soil disturbances, such as road construction, fires or overgrazing.

Control Methods:

The whole site needs to be considered, not just the weed. Plant competition is a good tool that is often overlooked. Restoring disturbed sites with desirable vegetation will help to reduce regrowth. Dalmatian Toadflax is a very aggressive plant and once established, it will completely dominate an area, crowding out native plant communities and reducing habitat value for wildlife.



Mechanical Control — Successful hand pulling or digging can be done on very small infestations, being sure to dig out the roots. Larger patches can be controlled by clean cultivation. Begin in early June and repeat as needed so that there are never more than 7—10 days of visible green growth. It could take up to 2 years to eradicate. Irregular tilling may spread infestations since small root pieces can produce new shoots. Mowing to ground level during flowering will reduce seed production but does not provide control of the creeping root stocks.

Biological Control — There is a stem-boring weevil called *Mecinus janthinus* that has shown to be fairly successful on suppressing Dalmatian Toadflax.



Chemical Control — Dalmatian Toadflax can be controlled with herbicides, although it is difficult. Studies show that the best time to spray toadflax is at the beginning of the flowering stage (usually in May). Be sure to add a surfactant to the spray mix to increase coverage and penetration of the waxy leaf surface. Fall applications may prove effective, if only to reduce the number of plants that return in the spring.

Recommended herbicides: (always add a surfactant to the spray mix)

April, May <i>Seedling/Rosette</i>	June, July <i>Bolting, Bud, Bloom</i>	August, September, October <i>Flowering, Seed, Fall Regrowth</i>
2,4-D	Tordon + 2,4-D	Fall regrowth
WeedMaster, Range Star, Rifle D	Tordon + Telar	Tordon
Telar	Telar	Telar
Tordon + 2,4-D		WeedMaster, Range Star, Rifle D

* **Tordon®** is the trade name for picloram and is a restricted use herbicide.

Read and follow all label instructions when applying herbicides. Trade names have been used to simplify instructions and no endorsement or warranty is expressed or implied.

Spokane County Noxious Weed Control Board

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For additional information on Noxious Weeds and the State Weed Law, visit our website at:

www.spokanecounty.org/weedboard



Stem-boring weevil *Mecinus janthinus*