



# WEEDS TO WATCH

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## YELLOW AND DALMATIAN TOADFLAX

Watch out for **Toadflax** (Figwort Family). Both **Yellow** and **Dalmatian** species can be found in fields, overgrazed pastures, rangeland, waste areas, and along roadsides.

These weeds are rhizomatous, perennial forbs with bright yellow snap-dragon shaped flowers and grow 2 to 3 feet or taller.

**HABITAT:** Favors disturbed ground, but it frequently occurs in excellent condition rangeland, clear cuts, pastures, waste areas, and along fences and roadside ditches.

**REPRODUCTION:** Toadflax reproduces by vegetative shoots and seeds. Seeds can remain dormant for 10 years. **Yellow** colonies expand mostly through vegetative reproduction. Seeds are dispersed by wildlife, livestock, vehicles, and construction equipment. Seeds are also spread to new sites by muddy boots, impure mulch, grass, topsoils and gravels, and from forage

and seed grains.

**CONTROL METHODS:**

Young, single plants can be dug up or hand pulled before extensive roots establish. Small patches should be eradicated during the rosette/seedling stage or the early bud/re-bloom stage.

Herbicide absorption is enhanced with early bud/pre-bloom and fall regrowth treatments when shoot to shoot translocation is greatest.

Eradication requires that reproduction is stopped completely to prevent reinvasion.

Applications of 2,4-D alone are not effective. Roots rapidly sprout new growth and repeated applications are usually required but this may be the only cost effective option if near water.

Effective herbicides if distant from water are:

Metsulfuron (*Escort*) applied at a rate of 1.5 to 2

ounces per acre plus 2,4-D at a rate of 1 quart per acre.

Chlorsulfuron (*Telar*) applied at a rate of 1 to 2 ounces per acre plus 2,4-D at a rate of 1 quart per acre.

Imazapic (*Plateau*) applied at a rate of 8 to 12 ounces per acre.

Picloram (*Tordon*) applied at a rate of 2 to 4 pints per acre plus, 2,4-D at a rate of 2 quarts per acre.

As always, follow manufacturer's instructions and see labels for restrictions for spraying near livestock and other information.

This information was assembled from the following articles:

*Yellow Toadflax and Dalmatian Toadflax* by M.D. Butler and L.C. Burrill, PNW 135, Revised November 1994, and *Watch out for Toadflax* by Kim Goodwin of Montana State University and Dave Burch from the Montana Department of Ag, EB0181, 2007



Typical setting where toadflax invades.



Introduced into North America because of their showy, snap-dragon-like flowers.



Yellow flowers occur in clusters on each stem.

## INVASIVE & NOXIOUS WEEDS

Invasive weeds are non-native plants that invade ecosystems and replace native plants.

Noxious weeds are usually invasive and designated by State low as priority plants that require control by landowners. These weeds can reduce grazing land and impact wildlife habitat.

Early detection and quick response is critical to slow

spread and protect weed-free areas.

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide early control methods and recommended treatments.

Contact your county Extension agent for management of large infestations or call

Ralph Hammer, Minnehaha County Weed and Pest Supervisor, at 605-367-4316.

