



Whatcom Weeds

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DALMATIAN TOADFLAX

Linaria dalmatica

THREAT: Dalmatian toadflax is an aggressive weed, introduced from southeastern Europe as a garden ornamental. This perennial plant reproduces both by seed and by creeping rootstock, and has an extensive, deep root system. A single Dalmatian toadflax plant can produce up to 500,000 seeds in a year. These seeds are spread by wind, animals and vehicles, and can lie dormant in the ground for at least 10 years. These reproductive strategies allow it to quickly invade fields, rangeland and roadsides. Since livestock find toadflax unpalatable, it can gain an additional advantage over grass in a grazed situation.

DESCRIPTION: Dalmatian toadflax is an attractive short-lived perennial. It has erect stems up to 3 feet tall with increased branching near the top of the plant. The light-green leaves are egg-shaped, waxy and pointed, and clasp the stem. The flowers are two-lipped and bright yellow, resembling snapdragon flowers. Dalmatian toadflax has a creeping root system. A more common look-alike to Dalmatian Toadflax is Yellow Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*), also known as Butter-N-Eggs. The leaves of Yellow Toadflax are very narrow, not broad and clasping the stem like Dalmatian.

MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Because of the aggressive, creeping root system, handpulling the plants is difficult and not very effective. Repeated clean cultivation for two years has been found to be effective. It is important to learn how to identify the plants while they are young to prevent establishment. It is also important to establish and maintain desirable grasses to compete with invading toadflax plants. Some chemical controls are effective. Contact the Weed Control Board for site-specific control recommendations.

