

Dalmatian Toadflax

Linaria dalmatica ssp. dalmatica

This attractive plant is a native of the Mediterranean region. It was originally introduced to North America in 1874 as an ornamental. This highly competitive and aggressive weed escaped cultivation and now infects millions of acres in the western United States. Its high genetic variability enables this weed to adapt to a wide variety of conditions. It is especially competitive in areas where the summers tend to be dry. It has invaded farmland, pastures, and rangelands displacing native plant species, livestock forage, and wildlife habitat.

Dalmatian toadflax is a new invader to Asotin County. It is in bloom right now and is easy to spot. The stems grow 2 to 3 feet or taller. The leaves and stems are waxy with a bluish cast to them. The leaves are usually heart-shaped, but can vary from broad to lanceolate shape. The flowers are 2-lipped, $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches long with a long spur. They are a bright yellow with an orange bearded throat. Dalmatian toadflax and Yellow toadflax continue to be sold in some states as xeriscape (low water) landscape plantings. Nurseries and seed catalogs sell them as “Butter and Eggs,” “Jacob’s Ladder,” or “Wild Snapdragon.”

Because of its extensive root system and early spring growth, Dalmatian toadflax is difficult to control once it has become established. It has the potential to be a major economic threat to Asotin County. The Asotin County Weed Board is committed to keeping this weed contained in its present locations. The Snake River corridor, one location off the Cloverland Road, and one location in Grouse Flats are the only known infestations of the weed at this time. If you see it, please report it to the Asotin County Weed Office at 243-2098. Let’s not let another new invader loose in our county.

