Montana Noxious Weed Education

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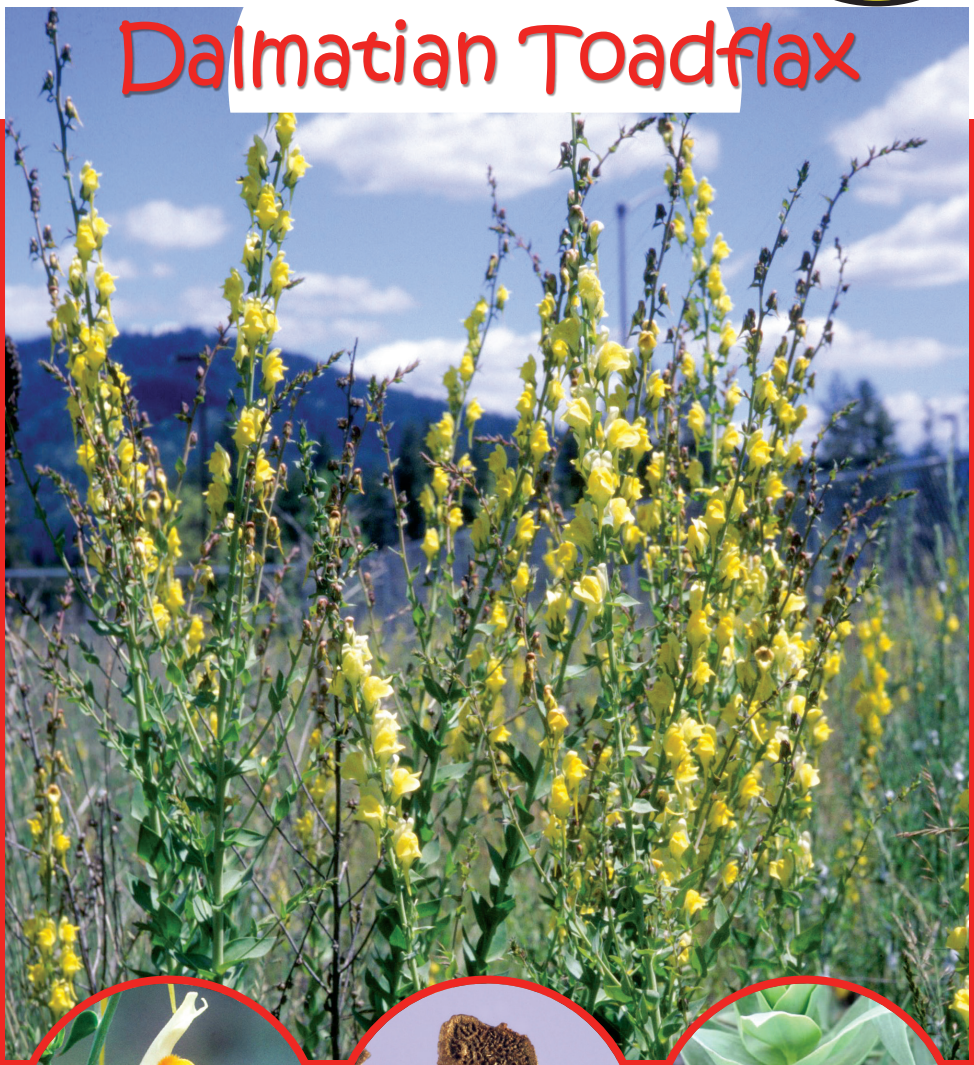
# Dalmatian Toadflax



flower

seeds

leaves

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# Dalmatian Toadflax

Genus: Linaria
Species: dalmatica
Priority Listing: 2B
Perennial
Biological control agents: toadflax stem weevil, toadflax seed capsule weevil, toadflax flower feeding beetle

Dalmatian toadflax is native to the Dalmatian coast of the Mediterranean region and was imported to the western U.S. in 1874 as an ornamental.

Dalmatian toadflax typically inhabits areas that have been disturbed including: roadsides, abandoned lots and fields, gravel pits, clearings, and overgrazed rangelands; it likes coarse, sandy soils.

Dalmatian toadflax and yellow toadflax both produce the yellow 'snapdragon' like flowers, but it is easy to tell them apart because Dalmatian toadflax grows taller and has heart-shaped leaves that clasp the stem as compared to the linear-shaped leaves of yellow toadflax.

Dalmatian toadflax has a taproot that can reach depths of 10' and grows lateral roots up to 12' in length. Stems of Dalmatian toadflax are blue-green in color and can grow up to 4' in height. The leaves of Dalmatian toadflax have smooth edges, are heart shaped, and attach to the stem alternately.

The flower is yellow and has a snapdragon-like orange throat that is about 1" to 1 ¼" long with a 1" long downward spur; flowers bloom from mid-summer to early fall.

When the flower sets seeds, the seeds are encapsulated in fruits. These fruits are brown and contain two compartments. Seeds are dark brown to black and are angular in shape. A single Dalmatian toadflax plant can produce as many as 500,000 seeds annually, and seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 10 years!

Dalmatian toadflax is difficult to control because it reproduces through both seed and rhizomes.

Photo courtesy of Gerald D. Carr, University of Oregon

**Biological Control Agents:** a method of controlling pests (including insects, mites, weeds and plant diseases) using other living organisms

**Encapsulated:** enclosed in a protective coating or membrane

**Inhabits:** to live in, reside in, or be present in

**Ornamental:** a plant that serves a purpose for ornament, or is grown for show

**Perennial:** a plant whose life spans several years

**Rhizomes:** a perennial underground stem that usually grows horizontally

**Taproot:** a main single root of a plant, generally growing straight down

**Viable:** capable of growing or developing

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