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Dalmatian Toadflax

(*Linaria dalmatica*)

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Dalmatian toadflax is a relatively new weed menace in Oregon. It resembles wild snapdragon, commonly called yellow toadflax. At present, it is found principally in eastern Oregon, usually in vacant lots, waste areas, rural cemeteries, and such locations. It was once used as an ornamental plant. Dalmatian toadflax has no value as a forage crop. Its danger lies in its ability to crowd out valuable forage, thus reducing range carrying capacity.

Description

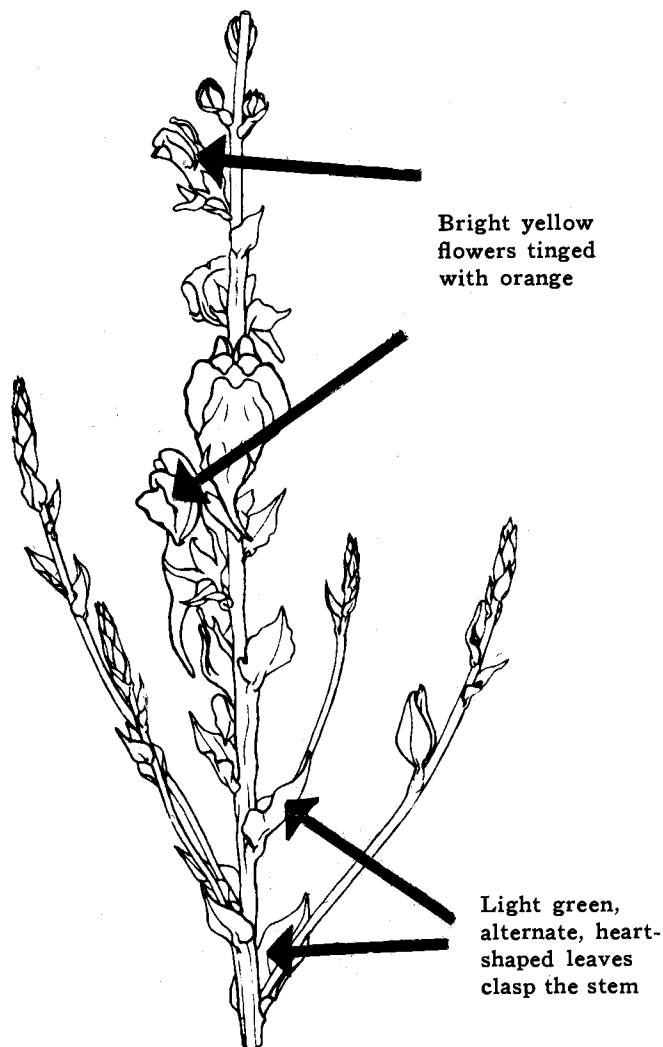
Dalmatian toadflax is a perennial plant that spreads by seed and underground roots. It has beautiful yellow flowers tinged with orange. Seed pods, flowers, and flower buds are often present on the long towering stalk at the same time. Its growth characteristic provides for excellent seeding conditions during the summer months.

Plants grow 2 to 4 feet tall; stems are light green with a smooth surface. Many stalks are produced from a single crown, forming a clump. The leaves are light green, alternate, heart-shaped, and clasp the stem.

An extensive root system enables Dalmatian toadflax to survive adverse soil and climatic conditions. Vertical roots are large, rough, and somewhat branching, and may extend 6 feet or more into the soil. Long, slender lateral roots branch from the vertical roots and may extend 10 or more feet from the parent plant. Lateral roots remain close to the soil surface. Buds appear from the lateral roots producing new top growth at varying intervals.

Control

Individual plants can be hand pulled. Care must be taken to remove the lateral root to prevent the growth of new plants.



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ANALYTICS

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Control with soil sterilants. Sodium chlorate or borate-chlorate mixtures are effective for small patch eradication. Such chemicals should be fall-applied under eastern Oregon conditions. Use 4 pounds of sodium chlorate per square rod and at least 8 pounds of the borate-chlorate mixture. Borates and chlorates can best be applied dry on the infested area.

Control with hormones. 2,4,5-TP, commonly called Silvex, has proved more effective for the control of Dalmatian toadflax than has 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T, or similar hormones. Information from Washington State

University indicates that 2 pounds of Silvex in 50 gallons of water per acre ($\frac{1}{2}$ cup in 3 gallons of water) gave excellent control. Dalmatian toadflax should be sprayed when approximately 6 inches high and before the early bloom stage. Commercial wetting agents or liquid detergents should be added to the spray.

Plants missed with the first spraying should be resprayed with Silvex. It is advisable to respray the area the following year to kill germinating seedlings. The ester of 2,4-D is effective on seedling plants, which often appear one year following hormone spraying.