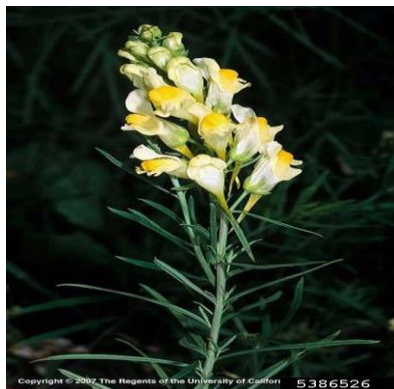


Yellow Toadflax

Linaria vulgaris P. Miller



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Joseph M. DiTomaso, University of California - Davis,

Plant Family: Figwort (Scrophulariaceae)

Other Names: Butter and eggs, common toadflax, wild snapdragon

Similar Species: Dalmatian toadflax

Weed Classification: Priority 2B

Native to: Europe and Asia

Is This Weed Toxic? Not known to be

Identification

Yellow toadflax, also known as butter and eggs, is a perennial noxious weed native to Europe and Asia that was originally introduced to North America as an ornamental. It has become an invasive species throughout the continental US, all of Canada, and scattered in Mexico. Despite being considered a noxious weed by many notable sources, it is still sold by nurseries and seed companies. It has a recognizable flower head similar to a snapdragon and is a pale yellow flower tinged with white and goldenrod orange. It is generally less than 1 foot but can be found growing up to 3 feet tall. Recognizing this plant before it flowers can be difficult because there are many native species that look similar to it in leaf and stem structure. It is an upright silvery green plant that may have a reddish hue at the base with leaves that are long and slender, pointed at both ends and alternately arranged along the stem. A large mature plant can produce as many as 15,000 – 30,000 seeds per season, and some studies show that seeds remain viable up to 8 years. A taproot and creeping lateral roots are capable of developing new vegetative buds, facilitating dense persistent colonies that quickly out-compete desirable plant species.

Treatment

Frequent tilling in cropland situations can be useful especially if paired with an herbicide regimen. When used infrequently, tilling exacerbates yellow toadflax infestations.

Mowing will not reduce infestations but can reduce seed production if properly timed.

If the infestation is small, hand-pulling may be utilized if combined with an herbicide regimen, provided it is done frequently throughout the season and in following years. Due to the extensive lateral roots hand-pulling alone is ineffective.

Burning will NOT control yellow toadflax and may increase the potential for spread. If present in prescribed fire areas pair the burning with herbicide applications.

Cattle generally will not graze yellow toadflax, but some studies show goats and sheep can be trained to control this weed. This technique must be paired with other successful methods.

Herbicide application will likely be the most successful and most-utilized control tool. Despite this method's comparative success to the other techniques available, it must be utilized in a proper manner to achieve the desired results. A surfactant is recommended when spraying since this plant does not readily absorb herbicide. Applications must be repeated over several seasons since this plant can easily withstand a single application.

Jacobs, Jim. *Ecology and Management of Yellow Toadflax [Linaria Vulgaris (L.) Mill.]* (2006): n. pag. *Fs.fed.us*. USDA. Web. 2 Feb. 2017.
Goodwin, Kim, and Dave Burch. "Watch out for Toadflax." (2007): n. pag. *Msuextension.org*. MSU Extension Web. 2 Feb. 2017.
"Yellow Toadflax." *Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board*. NWCB, n.d. Web. 03 Mar. 2017.



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