

Dalmatian toadflax
(*Linaria dalmatica*)

Currently in Montana, noxious weed infest about 8.2 million acres. Many of these state listed noxious weeds were brought to America as ornamentals for gardens, medicinal purposes, by accident in discarded soil from a ship's ballast, or unintentionally in bags of seed brought from other parts of the world. Whatever the cause of introduction non-native plant species have found their way onto Montana's state listed noxious weed list.

Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*) 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 directly. The flower is yellow and has a snapdragon-like orange throat that has a 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.

Please take a few moments to learn about noxious weeds. If noxious weeds are not currently a problem in your area, they may be in the near future. For more information about Montana's state listed noxious weeds, regulated plants, or weed species listed on your county weed list, please contact your local county weed district (can list weed district name here... ex: Lewis & Clark County Weed District) at (406) (Phone number). Or you can contact the Montana Department of Agriculture at (406) 444-5600.