



Ada County Pest of the Month

November
2014

A quick guide to identifying and controlling
invasive plants and animals found in the county

DALMATION TOADFLAX



Dalmation Toadflax is a short-lived, perennial herb that produces yellow snapdragon type flowers. The plant is easy to identify due to its long, erect appearance and waxy coating. Tap roots can reach as deep as ten feet, but will also produce lateral roots that can extend out from the parent plant for ten to twelve feet.

Dalmation Toadflax produces stems that can reach heights of four feet with leaves that are heart shaped and clasp the stem alternately. Flowers are arranged in racemes on the stems and flowering occurs from middle summer to early fall.

Quick Facts:

- Native to the Dalmatian coast of the former Yugoslavia to Romania, Bulgaria, Albania, Greece, Crete, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Syria, Iran, and Iraq.
- Seeds are ½ inch capsules that contain tiny dark seeds with papery wings. These seeds can remain viable for up to ten years and over its lifetime, a single plant can produce up to 500,000 seeds.
- Seed dispersal begins shortly after flowering and continues into winter. Dispersal can be by wind, water, wildlife, vehicles and equipment, forage, and livestock.
- Dalmatian toadflax contains an iridoid glycoside, a quinoline alkaloid, and a peganine so it is toxic to some livestock such as cattle. However, cattle avoid Dalmatian toadflax and there are no confirmed reports of livestock poisoning.
- Mature plants are strongly competitive. Dalmatian toadflax causes negative impacts in pastures, rangelands, and natural areas, where it outcompetes natives or other desirable species for sun and nutrients.



How to Control:



Mechanical Control:

Pulling or cultivating young Dalmatian toadflax plants in small infestations before they go to seed will provide control, even eradication, if done consistently for several years. When pulling either weed, make sure to remove the lateral roots completely. Mechanical control is not recommended for management of medium to large stands of toadflax.

Mowing is not recommended as it stimulates more plants to grow from the roots. It is true that mowing before the plant produces seeds reduces the number of seeds available for germination, but the stand density may increase from root sprouting. Mowing can be used to promote uniform growth and improve the effectiveness of herbicide applications.

Chemical Control:

Herbicide control will require repeated treatments at fairly high application rates. It is important to use an appropriate surfactant to enable the herbicide to penetrate the thick, waxy leaves. Herbicides should be applied in the late spring as the plants begin to bolt (send up flowering stems) or in the fall before the plants die back. Best control occurs when area is reseeded with competitive grasses.

Plateau (imazapic)	12 oz/acre - most effective if applied in the late fall
Escort (metsulfuron)	1.5 oz/acre - can control toadflax for up to 3 years - applied fall or spring
Tordon 22K (picloram)	1-2 qt /acre - apply when flowering or in fall. (Restricted Herbicide - need an applicator license to use.)
Telar (chlorsulfuron)	1.5-2oz/acre - apply when flowering or in fall.
Weedmaster (dicamba)	2-4 qt/acre - apply to pre-bloom to flowering stage.



Note: Chemical control of any weed can be difficult and confusing. If you are not experienced in chemical control or do not understand the product label, you should consult a licensed applicator to assist you. Inappropriate application can kill desirable vegetation, and may violate federal law.

For questions or concerns, please contact:

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