



# Ada County Pest of the Month

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



## Quick Facts



- **Name:** Dyers Woad (*Isatis Tinctoria*) other not quite so common names Marhalan Mustard and Woad
- **Found:** Rangeland, Forest, pastures, cultivated fields, roadsides and disturbed sites . It thrives in light sandy soil.
- **Briefly:** Introduced from Europe, it was cultivated as a medicinal herb and a source of indigo dye, Ancient Briton and Celts warriors covered their face and body with the blue dye to frighten their enemies in war.

## Identification

Dyers Woad, a member of the mustard family, is a winter annual, biennial or short lived perennial. It is bluish-green growing 1 to 3 ft tall with a 3 to 5 foot taproot. Leaves are smooth and have a cream colored midrib from the base to leaf tip, on the upper surface. Similar to other mustards, Dyers Woad has small yellow flowers with 4 petals. The flowers grow in clusters on the branched upper portions of the stem. The most distinguishable difference from other mustards is the unique seeds, they are purplish brown at maturity and tear dropped shaped .



## How To Control



As with most invasive plants, early detection and removal of Dyers Woad is important for successful control. On steep or difficult terrain hand pulling is the recommended control option after the plant bolts and before seed production. Herbicide Control is more effective before the plant bolts for specific herbicide recommendations please contact Ada County Weed control.