

# Wallowa County Weed Watch

## Dalmatian Toadflax

***Introduced as an ornamental, this Mediterranean native is wreaking havoc in the West!***

### The Problem

Dalmatian Toadflax displaces existing plant and animal communities, causing loss of forage for livestock and wildlife and increasing erosion and runoff. It is generally avoided by cattle, with cases of mild poisoning reported. Dalmatian Toadflax tends to colonize open dry sites on rangeland and cultivated land (especially reduced tillage), but is adaptable to many conditions.

A single plant can produce 500,000 seeds per year. 75% of them grow. Individual plants live 3 to 5 years. Seeds can remain viable for 10 years or more. Mature plant roots can reach depths of 4 to 10 feet, with lateral roots reaching out farther than 10 feet. Dalmatian Toadflax can reproduce vegetatively from buds on root stalks (like quack grass). Vegetative shoots emerge in early spring and are highly competitive even in good condition rangeland.

Weed Managers have designated a Toadflax Containment Area including Promise, Day Ridge and Powatka Ridge. Toadflax is becoming more common on the Snake River and can be found scattered elsewhere. It is a high priority weed in Wallowa County and in Oregon, and requires aggressive treatment measures.

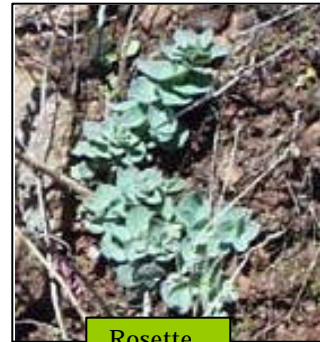
### Identification

Dalmatian Toadflax is a deep-rooted perennial with waxy leaves and stems. In the fall, plants produce a rosette of leafy stems that lay on the ground. Floral stems grow from this rosette in the spring. Stems can be woody near the base and grow 2 to 4 feet tall. Heart shaped leaves clasp the stem. Snapdragon like yellow flowers grow from the bases of upper leaves. Each flower has a long spur. Seeds pods are round and can be seen on stalks through winter. Seeds are tiny, black and look like coarse ground pepper.

### Treatment

Small patches of Dalmatian Toadflax can be eradicated by repeated hand pulling (remove as much of the root as possible). Carefully timed sheep grazing can help control infestations.

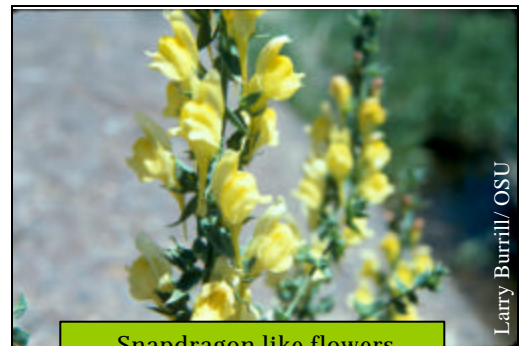
For chemical treatment, spray in fall, when the plant has big rosettes. Use Tordon (3 pints/Acre) and/or Telar (2 oz./Acre). You can use the same chemicals during the early spring rosette stage. You can also spray when plant is in bloom, but need a higher rate of chemical (consult label). In riparian areas use Rodeo (6 pints/Acre). Establishing healthy plant communities, with both broadleaves and grasses, is essential to long-term success.



Rosette



Seed pods



Snapdragon like flowers

Larry Burrill/ OSU



Teton County Weed and Pest



Dr. Steve Dewey/USU

A single stalk (left) and a multi-stalked plant (above)

**Read and follow all label instructions when applying herbicides.** Trade names have been used to simplify instructions and no endorsement or warranty is expressed or implied by the Wallowa County Weed Board or this brochure.

### For more information or to report weed sites call:

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