

# Dalmation Toadflax

## *Linaria dalmatica*



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**OTHER COMMON NAMES:** Yellow toadflax, Butter and eggs, Wild snapdragon, Common toadflax

### DESCRIPTION

A toadflax plant contains from 1-25 vertical, floral stems. Flowers are bright yellow and resemble snapdragons. It has alternate, heart shaped, waxy leaves. The tap root may penetrate one meter into the soil. Horizontal roots may grow to be several meters long, and can develop adventitious buds that may form independent plants. Mature dalmatian toadflax plants grow to be between 0.8 to 1.5 m tall.

### WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- bright yellow flowers that resemble snapdragon
- vertical floral stems 2.5 to 4.5 ft tall
- alternate, heart shaped, waxy leaves.

### WHEN TO FIND TOADFLAX:

Ideally, flowering toadflax will be detected early in the season (May and June) when it is easier to pull and before seed set.

### WHERE TO FIND TOADFLAX:

roadsides, fences, range lands, croplands, clear cuts, and pastures.

### WHAT TO DO

Please pull any toadflax you find. Take care not to spread seeds

Dalmation toadflax is a perennial herb native to the Mediterranean region. Likely introduced for ornamental reasons, it is now widespread throughout the United States. It is abundant in Eastern Oregon and a large population is spilling over into Jackson from Klamath County.

In North America, toadflax primarily occurs on open sites with sandy or gravelly soil such as roadsides and farmed lands, but can also invade coniferous forests, oak, sagebrush, and riparian communities.

Dalmation toadflax reproduces by seed and vegetative propagation. The strong upright floral stems that characterize mature toadflax plants develop after a winter's dormancy, and emerge about the same time as new seedlings in mid-April. Flowering occurs from May-August and seeds mature from July- September.

Once established, toadflax suppresses other vegetation mainly by intense competition for limited soil water. Using adventitious buds from creeping root systems, toadflax forms colonies that can push out native grasses and other perennials, thereby altering the species composition of natural communities.

Successful control can be obtained by pulling, or killing the plants with herbicide, before toadflax seed production begins. Planting competitive native perennial grasses can help prevent reestablishment.

### REFERENCES

Carpenter, Allan and Tomas Murray. (1998) Element Stewardship abstract for Dalmation toadflax. The Nature Conservancy. Available on line at: <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/documnts/linadal.pdf>



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