

Yellow toadflax

Linaria vulgaris



- Yellow toadflax, “butter and eggs”, is a perennial, reproducing from seed and underground roots
- Early vigorous growth, extensive underground root system, and effective seed dispersal methods makes toadflax very difficult to control
- 8 in. to 2 ft. tall, with leaves that are pale green, alternate, narrow, and pointed at both ends
- Flowers do not appear during drought, but will do so after summer rains. Emerges in April and May in most parts of Colorado, adapting to a variety of site conditions, from moist to dry in all types of soils.
- Infestations begin under oak brush and in mountain meadows
- Toadflax has been reported to grow from 5,000 to over 12,000 ft. in Colorado

Negative Impacts

- Toadflax is a serious problem to rangeland and mountain meadows
- It displaces desirable grasses which reduces the ecological diversity on rangeland and can lead to erosion problems
- Grazing animals do not eat toadflax
- Reduces agricultural production
- Infestations reduce or eliminate wildlife use

LA PLATA
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



Colorado
State
University

Extension

Yellow toadflax

Chemical Control (always add non-ionic surfactant @ 1 oz for each 3 gallons of water)

For Toadflax mixed with grasses:

2,4-D Amine, 2 to 4 quarts per acre

- For hand spray 3 to 6 oz. per gallon of water
- Apply at rapid spring growth stage

Tordon plus Chlorsulfuron

(Picloram—restricted use plus Telar—general use)

- 1 qt + 1.25 oz per acre
- Flowering through fall.
- Typically late August through September application timing has shown best results.
- Re-treatment may be necessary

Tordon (Picloram—restricted use)

- 1.5 quarts per acre
- Apply in fall (late August through September)

For solid stands followed by perennial grass plantings in the late fall:

Roundup, Rascal, etc. (41% Glyphosate)

- 2 to 3 quarts per acre from pre-bud flowering to fall frost

Mechanical Control:

- Handpulling or digging in **not** recommended for eradication of yellow toadflax because it is unlikely that the entire root will be excavated and a new plant is likely to grow. A single new plant might be the exception.
- Tillage is not recommended due to the creeping root system

Stopping flowering and seed production is critical for success. Mowing is ineffective.

07/2007

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