

DYER'S WOAD



Jennifer Andreas, WSU Extension

BOTANICAL NAME: *Isatis tinctoria*

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? Dyer's Woad has a basal rosette of hairy blueish green leaves with branched stems bolting up 1 to 4 feet high. The basal leaves are stalked and can be up to 7 inches long with a wavy or toothed margin. The stem leaves alternate and have a clasping base. The small yellow flowers have 4 petals in a cross shape and occur in umbrella shaped clusters at the branch tips.

WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW? Dyer's Woad is native to Europe where it was cultivated as a source for indigo blue dye. It invades pastures, rangelands and forests. It prefers dry, rocky soils.

WHEN DOES IT BLOOM? It typically blooms in May and June, and sets seed in June and July.

WHAT TYPE OF ROOT SYSTEM? Dyer's Woad has a taproot 3-5 feet long.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD? Dyer's Woad reproduces by seed only. The seeds develop in hanging pods that fall near the plant but can be dispersed by wind, water and animals.

HOW DO I CONTROL IT? See the reverse side for detailed information on mechanical, cultural, biological and chemical control of Dyer's Woad.

WANT TO KNOW MORE? – Call:

**Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control
10905 N. Ramsey Road
Hayden, ID 83835
208-446-1290**

kcnoxiousweeds@kcgov.us or www.kcweeds.com



Richard Old - weed-id.com



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How to Control Dyer's Woad

Dyer's Woad is a biennial that reproduces by seed only, so control is based on preventing seed production.

Mechanical Digging/pulling can be effective but the top 2-4 inches of taproot must be removed if possible. Check back 3 weeks later for any plants that were missed or hadn't emerged. This treatment will need to be repeated until the seed bank is exhausted or good grass cover prevents germinations.

Cultural The best long term weed control is to get your desirable native plants thriving. Killing weeds is only one step, you have to also replace them with something good. Seed and fertilize so your grass can take nutrients away from the weeds and not leave available open soil for new weeds to germinate.

Biological There are no biocontrol insects available for Dyer's Woad, but a Eurasian rust fungus is being evaluated and may prove effective.

Chemical * See our *Chemical Treatment* handout for more information.

- **Metsulfuron Methyl** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Escort XP**. It is a mostly broadleaf selective (safe on most grasses). It comes as a dry chemical that must be mixed into water and agitated. It can be effective on Dyer's Woad if applied to actively growing plants before they fully flower.
- **Chlorsulfuron** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Telar XP**. Its use is very similar to Metsulfuron Methyl and it is effective on Dyer's Woad if applied during the rosette stage in the spring.
- **2,4-D** is the active ingredient in many herbicide products including **Hardball, Hi-Dep, Weedar 64**, etc. It is broadleaf selective and is not labelled for Dyer's Woad, but is reported to give partial control on Dyer's Woad.

Chemical recommendations are based on University of Idaho Extension Bulletin 865 Idaho's Noxious Weeds 2011 Control Guidelines Noncrop and Rangeland Sites, the book Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States published by UC Davis Weed Research & Information Center, and herbicide labels.