



# YELLOW TOADFLAX

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Linaria vulgaris*

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?** It is a short-lived perennial that can grow up to 3 feet tall. The leaves are pale green, narrow, pointed at both ends, and grow to 2½ inches long or longer. The showy snapdragon-like flowers are about 1 inch long, yellow with an orange throat. They are often sold through catalogs and in nurseries as “wild snapdragon” or the “butter & eggs” plant.



**WHERE DOES IT GROW?** This escaped ornamental plant prefers to grow along roadsides, in abandoned lots and fields, gravel pits, and overgrazed pastures. It is extensive throughout Kootenai County.

**WHEN DOES IT BLOOM?** Blooming usually begins in June and continues through August.



**HOW DOES IT SPREAD?** Yellow Toadflax spreads both by seed as well as creeping roots with reproductive growing points. The seeds are winged, and a single plant can produce 30,000 seeds each season. The seeds are dispersed by wind, water, and animals such as ants.

**WHY IS IT A NOXIOUS WEED?** It invades pastures and farm fields displacing native plants and reducing yields of crops and forage.

Once established it can be very difficult to control.



**HOW DO I CONTROL IT?** See the reverse side for information on mechanical, cultural, biological and chemical control options for Yellow Toadflax. Also see our Chemical Treatments handout for more information on using herbicides.

Want more information? Contact:

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

**[kcnoxioussweeds@kcgov.us](mailto:kcnoxioussweeds@kcgov.us) or [www.kcweeds.com](http://www.kcweeds.com)**

*Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208)446-2145 with 3 days advance notice.*

# How to Control Yellow Toadflax

Yellow Toadflax is a perennial that reproduces not only by seed but also vegetatively through its roots. Control is by preventing seed production and killing the root system.

**Mechanical** Pulling can be effective only on seedlings before the creeping root system gets established. Mowing is ineffective because it stimulates vegetative reproduction in the roots and rhizomes. Tillage can be effective, but only if repeated at least every 7 to 10 days for multiple years.

**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** Several biocontrol agents are available for Yellow Toadflax with varying degrees of success. Contact Nez Perce Biocontrol Center for more information (208)843-9374 or [nezpercebiocontrol.com](http://nezpercebiocontrol.com).

**Chemical** \*Chemical treatment of creeping perennials must target the root system in order to be effective. Killing only the top growth with an herbicide such as 2,4-D will not reduce your infestation. See our Chemical Treatment handout for more information.

- **Chlorsulfuron** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Telar XP**. It is a dry chemical that must be mixed into water and agitated. It is broadleaf selective and effective on Yellow Toadflax if applied just after most of the shoots have flowered.
- **Imazapyr** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Habitat**. It is partially selective for broadleaves and can be effective against Yellow Toadflax if applied in the fall after the first frost.
- **Picloram** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Tordon 22K**. It is a broadleaf selective herbicide that can be very effective on Yellow Toadflax, but is federally restricted and requires a license to buy or apply.
- **Glyphosate** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **RoundUp, Honcho, Gly-Star**, etc. It is non-selective (will kill grass) and can be effective on Yellow Toadflax if applied to actively growing plants in the spring.

*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.*