

The ENEMY: Dalmation toadflax

STRATEGY: The other day Tom, a friend of mine asked me about this pretty snapdragon-like plant. Most likely an escaped ornamental plant from Europe. This noxious weed is another one of our troublesome plants due to its spreading root system (rhizomes). Dalmation toadflax is taller in height than its relative, Yellow toadflax, growing to a height of 36". It has yellow flowers with a hint of orange on the pedals and has broad leaves that clasp around the stems. The flowers are produced on the upper half of the stems and produce small pods that contain the seeds that will shake or fall out when disturbed.

ATTACK: Its rhizomes allow the plant to creep into adjacent properties. It is one of the most difficult weeds to contain due to its potential ornamental beauty. Many people do not know it is noxious until it is completely out of hand or we stop by for a visit. It can be seen along the Snake River Road out of Huntington. It is usually found in disturbed soils especially rocky or gravelly locations, which adds to its spreadability as it will be taken up with the soil source and spread to other locations.

DEFENSE: As with the other plants that have a creeping root system, mechanical control not the first choice for control. Each time the root is disturbed it promotes stronger re-growth. Numerous herbicides are available. Combinations of Tordon 22k and/or Telar XP work best. Telar XP at 1.5oz and Weedmaster will suppress the plant. Treating with a minimum of 30 gallons per acre of water is also key to controlling it. Waiting until the plants are in the bud to bloom stage of growth seems to be the best time for treatment. There are various insects that are available to help control this toadflax. Assist your local weed professionals by not transporting this weed in soil amendments or by taking this pretty flower home you your mommy!