

The ENEMY: Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)

STRATEGY: This is beautiful escaped ornamental plant from Europe as it resembles 'Snap dragons'. This plant is another one of our troublesome noxious weeds due to its spreading root system (rhizomes). Yellow toadflax is a short growing weed (less than 18 inches tall) with orange and yellow flowers with narrow leaves that run up and down the entire plant. This plant does not secrete a white milk when broken off (as Leafy spurge does). I have only seen this in the area north of Halfway.

ATTACK: This plant is also being called 'Butter and Eggs" which contains a poison that may be harmful to livestock. Its rhizomes allow the plant to creep into adjacent properties. It is one of the most difficult weeds to control and 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.

DEFENSE: This is one of the toughest weeds to control. 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 Telar XP work well. In the case of dense patches, Roundup mixed with ammonium sulfate can be utilized. Waiting until the plants are in the bud to bloom stage of growth or late fall seems to be best time to treat the plants. As always, when using Roundup Pro make sure you have a plan to plant desirable species back into the area for prevention of re-growth and to maintain habitat programs. There are also various insects that are available to help control Yellow toadflax.