Dalmatian Toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*)

**Family:** Plantaginaceae (Plantain)  
**Life Cycle:** Perennial  
**Class:** B - Control Required  
**AKA:** Balkan or Broadleaf toadflax
**DALMATIAN TOADFLAX**

- Waxy layer on leaves and stems can give plants a blue tint
- Deep, extensive root system
- Brought to North America as an ornamental
- Decreases forage for livestock and big game
- Native to Europe and Mediterranean

**CONTROL METHODS**

**Mechanical:** Hand pulling or digging can be effective on young small patches (before creeping roots have developed) if repeated consistently over five to six years.

**Cultural:** Intensive tilling can be effective, if repeated with high frequency over several years. Always clean equipment before removing it from infested site.

**Biological:** Toadflax stem weevil (*Mecinus janthinus*) has effectively reduced some populations of toadflax in Spokane County. The larvae mines in the plant stems and adults feed on stems and leaves. Over time this reduces seed production and plant vigor.

**Chemical***: Use a surfactant; waxy protective layer on leaves reduces spray efficacy. See table below for recommendations.

*ALWAYS read herbicide labels and follow instructions for use and PPE. The use of a surfactant (aka sticker) increases the efficacy of herbicide application, saving you time and money. If treating over multiple seasons, rotate using herbicides with different modes of action to reduce likelihood of herbicide resistance developing. Below are recommended herbicides based on stage of growth and time of year. All recommendations are supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Noxious Weed Board is implied. Trade names are used to simplify recommendations.

**DESCRIPTION**

**Growth Traits:** Perennial with extensive root system. Dies back to ground in winter. Upright, moderately branching plants grow up to five feet high with many stems growing from roots.

**Leaves and Stems:** Leaves and stems covered in a waxy cuticle layer, giving light-green plants a blue tint. Leaves are alternate, heart-shaped and clasp to stem. Stems are woody at the base and branch near the top.

**Flowers:** Flowers are typically bright yellow with orange tinges, resembling snapdragon flowers. Flowers have a long, mostly straight spur. Flowers bloom from the bottom of the stem upwards, so plants may be blooming and releasing viable seed simultaneously.

**Roots and Reproduction:** Produces a taproot and creeping lateral roots. Spreads by seeds and adventitious buds on creeping lateral roots. One mature Dalmatian toadflax plant may produce up to 500,000 seeds. Seeds form in small capsules, with many seeds per capsule. Seeds may remain viable for ten years in soil seed bank.

**Habitat:** Grows in disturbed habitats, pastures, rangelands, waste sites, and roadsides. Spreads rapidly on over-grazed lands, outcompeting the weakened plant community. Can grow in most environments and tolerate many soil types.

**Toxicity:** Not known to be toxic; livestock do not show much interest in it as forage.

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<th>April - May</th>
<th>June - July</th>
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<td>Bolting, Bud, Bloom Stage</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Tordon + 2,4-D</td>
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<td>Range Star</td>
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