JEFFERSON COUNTY COLORADO | Invasive Species Management

Yellow toadflax

Linaria vulgaris





Yellow toadflax	
General	Family: Plantain (Plantaginaceae) (formerly Figwort - Scrophulariaceae) Native to Eurasia Has been used as an ornamental but no longer available in Colorado Colorado List B - Control required
Common Names	Wild snapdragon, butter and eggs
Habitat	Herbaceous perennial Colony forming Found in pastures, rangelands, roadsides, gravel pits, and grasslands
PLANT	
Vegetation	Mature plants up to 3 feet tall Leaves pale green, lance shaped. 1-2 inches long, 1/8-1/4 inches wide, waxy Multiple stems from crown
Roots	Lateral roots. New plants can develop from root buds 2-3 weeks after germination and from root fragments as small as ¼ in long
Flower	May-August Yellow with orange throat. 3/4 -1 inches long. Snapdragon shaped. Has a spur that is usually as long as the flower Dense cluster of 15-20 flowers at the end of stems
Seed	Each plant can produce up to 30,000 seeds Seed matures from July through September. Viability and germination are low
Seedling	Early May, some fall germination possible
Reproduction	Reproduces mainly vegetatively but also by seed

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CONTROL -- CHEMICAL		
Timing	***Herbicide***	***Notes***
Spring to Late Summer Flowering or Fall Mature Plants	Aminocyclopyrachlor + Chlorsulfuron (Perspective) Chlorsulfuron (Telar) Picloram (Tordon) Restricted Use	Use of a surfactant is recommended for most herbicides to help increase contact with the vegetation and to facilitate herbicide uptake. Refer to the specific label for the appropriate type of surfactant. Treating at younger stages stops weeds from using resources that desirable plants need to prosper. Refer to the individual label for allowed sites, specific timing, and restrictions about grazing and haying. Formulations with more than one active ingredient are available. Control will take a few years so treatment will need to be repeated.

CONTROL -- NON-CHEMICAL		
Technique	***Timing***	***Method***
Biological	Summer	*Calophasia lunula*, a defoliating moth *Eteobalea intermediella*, a root boring moth *Mecinus janthinus*, a stem boring weevil
Burning	Not recommended	Burning is not recommended. The deep roots protect the plant. Areas disturbed by fire are susceptible to re-invasion because of the lack of competition from desirable plants.
Cultivation	Not recommended	Cultivation severs the roots which will regrow plants from the fragments.
Grazing	Not recommended	Intensive grazing contributes to ideal habitat conditions that actually help the spread of Yellow toadflax. May be toxic to livestock.
Mowing	Spring to Early Fall	Repeat monthly for each flush of plants prior to seed set followed up in the fall with herbicide after last flush of plants.
Prevention	Anytime	Maintain the health of the site by encouraging healthy stands of grass. Revegetation of highly disturbed sites.
Removal	Not recommended	Hand pulling is not effective. Pulling perennial weeds with deep or spreading roots breaks the roots. New plants grow from the fragmented pieces and can increase an infestation.
	Spring to Fall Flowering	Cutting stems in spring and fall reduces floral stems. Bag and dispose of in the trash or landfill. Clip plants at base. Plants without flower buds do not need to be put in the trash. **Do not pull established plants because they will resprout from the root fragments.**

Use all chemicals according to the manufacturer's label. The label will provide specific instructions including allowed sites, application methods, rates, storage, re-entry requirements and personal protective equipment. No specific recommendation or endorsement is made or implied by listing the above methods or products. 9/2021