

HH. Dalmatian Toadflax
“Wild Snapdragon”
(*Linaria genistifolia*)

Key Characteristics:

Dalmatian toadflax is a member of the Snapdragon family. It was introduced from Europe as an ornamental, but has escaped cultivation and is rapidly invading Western range- and wild-lands. The flower of this creeping perennial closely resembles that of Yellow Toadflax, but the plant can be easily distinguished by its **leaves**, which are blue-green, heart-shaped and clasping the stem. **Flowers** are bright yellow with orange centers, snapdragon-like and spurred. Dalmatian toadflax is especially well-adapted to arid sites and can spread rapidly once established. Its deep, extensive root system, waxy leaves, and heavy seed production, make it difficult to control.



Locations:

Dalmatian toadflax is still relatively rare in Pitkin County but common in Glenwood Springs. Singular plants have been found in isolated locations throughout Pitkin County. More substantial infestations exist along Capitol Creek Road near the Monastery and along Upper Snowmass Creek Road and on BLM Land in the Crown Mountain area.

Biological control:

Contact the Colorado Department of Agriculture Insectary in Palisade for more information about ongoing research into Biological Control for Dalmatian Toadflax.

Cultural control:

Good ground cover helps inhibit, but will not prevent, initial infestation. Re-seed disturbed areas adjacent to toadflax infestations with competitive, native perennial grasses.

Mechanical control:

For small infestations, pulling toadflax by hand can be effective. Pull every year for 5-6 years to deplete the reserves of the root system. Monitor the site for an additional 10-15 years to remove seedlings produced from dormant seeds.

Chemical control:

Contact Pitkin County Land Management Department for more specific information about herbicide products, application rates, and equipment calibration.

HH. Dalmatian Toadflax (*Linaria genistifolia*) (continued)

Native Look-Alikes:

Dalmatian (and even Yellow) Toadflax is commonly confused with our native Golden Banner (*Thermopsis montana*) which actually belongs to the Pea family. In fact, Golden Banner is also commonly called “False Lupine,” because its flowers very much resemble that of Lupine, which is also a Pea.

Thermopsis is thus easily distinguished from the noxious weed by its pea-like flowers, leaves, and fruit:

- **Leaves** of Golden Banner are divided into three leaflets, do not clasp the stem, and lack the bluish tint of Dalmatian Toadflax.
- **Flowers** of Golden Banner consist of the distinctive banner, wings, and keel of the Pea family; and lack the spur present on Toadflax.
- **Fruit** of Golden Banner is a bean pod.



Thermopsis montana plant (left) and fruit (right)