

## **T. Common Mullein** (*Verbascum thapsus*)

### **Key Characteristics:**

Common mullein is a member of the Snapdragon family. It was introduced from Europe, but is native to Asia. A deep tap-rooted biennial growing up to 7 feet tall, it produces a large **rosette** up to 2 feet in diameter the first year. **Leaves** are large, soft, and very hairy leaves. It produces a large **rosette** up to 2 feet in diameter the first year. **Flowers** are yellow and borne in large terminal spikes. Dipped in tallow, mature stalks made good torches in ancient times; called "witch's-stick".



### **Locations:**

Found throughout Pitkin County along dried-up river bottoms, pastures, meadows, fencerows and disturbed areas. Especially prevalent on gravelly soils.

### **Biological control:**

None present and no current research.

### **Cultural control:**

Good vegetative cover is the best way to avoid proliferation of Common Mullein.

### **Mechanical control:**

Will not stand tillage. Pulling or cutting below the root crown when soil is damp is effective if done prior to seed production.

### **Chemical control:**

Only effective when combined with adequate surfactant to allow penetration of hairy leaves. Contact Pitkin County Land Management Department for more specific information about herbicide products, application rates, and equipment calibration.