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YELLOW TOADFLAX MANAGEMENT TIPS

Yellow toadflax, a member of the Figwort family, is a perennial forb with a taproot and creeping rhizomes. Leaves are narrow and pointed at both ends, have smooth edges and are distributed alternately on the stem. The yellow flowers are snapdragon-like with an orange throat and have a downward spur. Mature plants usually grow one to two feet tall. Reproduction is by seed and underground roots. Mature plants can produce up to 20,000 seeds. **Seeds can remain viable for up to ten years.** Yellow toadflax displaces native vegetation and is a very aggressive competitor in grasslands and burned areas.



Management and control efforts must be planned for many years at the existing site in order to prevent seed formation/dispersal and to monitor for, and appropriately treat, any new plants that emerge from seeds or roots.

Effective control measures for the management of yellow toadflax include:

- 1. Mechanical treatment (hand pulling):** Diligent hand pulling or grubbing may control very small infestations. Wear gloves when hand pulling. Hand pulling is not feasible on more established infestations.
- 2. Herbicide: Always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Calibrate your equipment to ensure that you are adding the proper amount of herbicide to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control yellow toadflax. **Do NOT use these herbicides in lawns, turf or ornamental settings – read the label.** *For the most effective control, apply herbicides in the flowering stage or in the fall.*

Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:

Tordon 22K (restricted use): 2 oz herbicide per gallon of water.
*Telar XP: 1/3 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.

Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

Tordon 22K (restricted use): 2 quarts herbicide per acre.
*Telar XP: 2 oz herbicide per acre.

NOTE: Adding 2,4-D to your tank with any of the above herbicides may improve performance. Add at the rate of 1 – 2 quarts per acre for large sprayers or 1 – 2 ounces per gallon of water for backpack sprayers.

NOTE: Adding a surfactant to your tank mix may enhance the performance of your herbicide and is required for certain herbicides (read the label). Add 0.5 - 1 oz per gallon of water for backpack sprayers or 1 – 2 pints per 100 gallons for large sprayers.

*** denotes that a surfactant is required for the herbicide to be effective**

- 3. Biological (insects):** There are several insects available that feed on the stems, roots, flowers and seeds of yellow toadflax. Biological control can be an important tool when using integrated pest management, but it is only effective on larger infestations.
- 4. Grazing:** It is believed that sheep and goats can be trained to graze yellow toadflax.
- 5. Integrated management:** Management of yellow toadflax is more effective when more than one strategy is used.