

Yellow toadflax  
(*Linaria vulgaris*)

Currently in Montana, noxious weed infest about 8.2 million acres. Many of these state listed noxious weeds were brought to America as ornamentals for gardens, medicinal purposes, by accident in discarded soil from a ship's ballast, or unintentionally in bags of seed brought from other parts of the world. Whatever the cause of introduction these non-native plant species have found their way onto Montana's state listed noxious weed list.

Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*) Yellow toadflax is native to Europe, Asia the United Kingdom, Spain, Siberia, and western China. Yellow toadflax grows along roadsides and disturbed and cultivated lands. Historically, yellow toadflax was used as an ornamental and medicinal plant. As an ornamental yellow toadflax was grown in children's' gardens because of the whimsical shape of the flowers; the "snapping" flowers can be made to "talk" by squeezing them at the base. As a medical the leaves of yellow toadflax were used to make tea which helped with digestive problems. It was also used as an insecticide which was made by boiling the leaves in milk. The mixture was then used to ward off pesky insects! Yellow toadflax has alternate, narrow, pale green leaves that are about 2 ½" long, which are pointed at both ends and have smooth edges. Yellow toadflax plant stems can grow to heights of 8 to 24". The yellow toadflax flower is yellow and has a snapdragon-like orange throat that is about 1" long with a 1" downward spur. The flowers grow in dense clusters on the top of short stalks and bloom from mid-summer to mid-fall. Due to the way the yellow toadflax flower is constructed, only strong insects such as bees and Bumble bees can pry in between the upper and lower lip of the flower for pollination. Yellow toadflax seeds are encapsulated in fruits. These fruits are brown, round to oval, and contain two compartments where the seeds are produced. Seeds are dark brown to black, flat, and have a papery circular wing. Yellow toadflax reproduces through both seeds and rhizomes. The taproot of a yellow toadflax plant may grow up to 3' long! Horizontal roots may grow to be several feet long and can produce buds that can grow new plants.

Please take a few moments to learn about noxious weeds, if noxious weeds are not currently a problem in your area, they may be soon. For more information about Montana's state listed noxious weeds, regulated plants, or weed species listed on your county weed list, please contact your local county weed district (can list weed district name here... ex: Lewis & Clark County Weed District) at \_(406)\_(Phone number)\_. Or you can contact the Montana Department of Agriculture at (406) 444-5600.