

"B" Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,
but may have limited distribution in some counties

Yellow toadflax
Linaria vulgaris

Other common names: Butter and eggs, wild snapdragon, common toadflax, ramsted, flaxweed, Jacob's ladder

USDA symbol: LIVU2
ODA rating: B



Introduction: Yellow toadflax was introduced as an ornamental in the United States in the mid-1800's. This invader is still occasionally found in wildflower seed mixes and can be found throughout the U.S.

Distribution in Oregon: Yellow toadflax was first documented in Oregon in 1880 in Multnomah County. It is not a common species in any county but has a wide distribution throughout the state.

Description: A perennial herb that blooms from summer to fall. It grows one to two feet tall and has pale green leaves that are narrow and pointed at both ends. Its flowers are orange and yellow and snapdragon-like.

Impacts: Yellow toadflax is a potential weed problem in zero and minimum till areas because of its prolific seed production and creeping rhizome. It is an aggressive weed in rangeland where it quickly replaces grasses and herbs and is an alternate host for tobacco mosaic virus. Some sources report that toadflax is poisonous to cattle.

Biological controls: Seven biological control agents are approved for release. Three of these have been successfully established in Oregon: a flower-feeding beetle, a seed capsule weevil and a stem weevil.

