

Weed of The Week:

Yellow Toadflax

(*Linaria vulgaris*)



Weed description:

Yellow toadflax has a snapdragon appearance and is a member of the figwort family. It is also known as common toadflax or butter and eggs. Originally from Europe, it was introduced as an ornamental plant. This perennial will grow to heights ranging from 8 inches to 2 feet and reproduces from seed as well as from underground roots. Its leaves are narrow, pointed on both ends and are alternate on the stem. Flowers are yellow with deep orange centers and are about an inch long. Yellow toadflax emerges in April and will flower throughout the growing season.

Distribution:

Distribution of yellow toadflax is fairly limited in Arapahoe County with only three known infestations totaling less than acre. This is not true for the rest of Colorado. It is now widely distributed throughout the higher elevations and is now creeping into the Front Range and Western Slope.

Why is it a problem?

Yellow toadflax is a problem to rangeland, pastures and grasslands because it decreases the amount of usable forage for grazing animals. It can also reduce land value, reduce wildlife habitat and forage, displace native plants, and decrease native plant and animal diversity. By displacing native plants and animals, dense infestations threaten natural ecosystems and nature reserves by fragmenting sensitive plant and animal habitat. This plant is extremely difficult to control because of its resistance to herbicides, seed dispersal methods and extensive underground root system.



If you see this plant within Arapahoe County or would like more information contact:

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