Dalmatian toadflax

Linaria dalmatica

Description

Originally introduced to North America as an ornamental plant in the late 1800s.

Habit

Short-lived, herbaceous perennial; narrow and upright, growing up to 4 ft tall; Taproots may reach depths of 4-10 ft, and lateral roots can extend 12 feet from parent plant.

Leaves

Heart-shaped, waxy, pale green in color, and 1-3 in long with clasping bases.
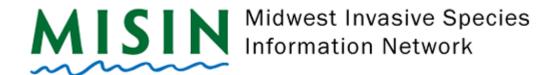
Stems

Somewhat woody at the base, and frequently branched in the upper portion. Waxy in texture.

Flowers

Bright yellow in color with orange markings and elongate spurs and occur in simple racemes on the stems, 1.4-2 in long and snap-dragon like; Blooms May through September.

Fruits and Seeds

Fruits are capsules that are 0.5 in long and contain an average of 140 to 250 small black-brown, seeds with wings.

Habitat

Native from central Europe to central Asia. Found in disturbed sites, roadsides, clear cuts, railroad right-of-ways, fences, croplands, pastures, and rangelands. Prefers dry sites with coarse, well-drained soil.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Butter and eggs or Yellow toadflax (Linaria vulgaris) is similar in appearance, but has more linear pointed leaves, and is generally smaller.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pulling, mowing, and tillage can be effective in preventing seed productions and starving toadflax roots; effective herbicides for toadflax include chlorsulfuron, dicamba, picloram and imazapic. It may be necessary to retreat every 3-4 years; flower feeding beetles (Brachypterolus pulicarius and Gymnetron antirrhini) reduce seed production.

Credits

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