

# Dyers Woad

*Dyers woad can grow as a winter annual, a biennial or short-lived perennial. It is a member of the mustard family. It grows up to 4 feet tall, but is normally about 2 feet in height. The stems grow from a group of basal leaves and don't branch until the very top of the plant. The stem leaves are longer than they are wide, clasp the stem and are blue-green in color. They have a prominent crème colored midrib growing from the base of the leaf to its' tip. The leaves have smooth edges and no hair on them. It produces abundant bright yellow flowers growing densely above the leaves. The flowers are small (about ¼ inch across) and numerous and have 4 petals that grow in groups at the end of numerous stems. Each flower produces one seedpod of about ¾ inches in length, which are formed as the flowers fade. The pods start out green but turn to a shiny black or deep purple color as the age. Several pods grow on each stem and each pod contains one seed. Dyers woad begins growth in the fall as a small rosette of leaves. These rosette leaves have fine hairs growing and are widest near the tip. The stems grow from the middle of the rosette leaves and can grow up to 4 inches per day when conditions are right. It generally doesn't flower until the second year of its life.*



## **CONTROLLING DYERS WOAD**

*Dyers woad has a deep thick taproot that can grow as long as five feet. It can re-sprout if it is cut off and reproduces easily from seed. Its rapid growth rate and wide adaptability make it a very effective competitor with all types of native vegetation. All of these factors make controlling dyers woad difficult. Hand pulling, digging chopping or grubbing can be effective on smaller populations. Dyers woad can normally be controlled using a planned herbicide spray program.*

