

Yellow Toadflax



A perennial plant with short spreading roots, erect to decumbent stems 30–80 cm high, with fine, threadlike, glaucous (blue-green) foliage. The flowers are similar to those of the snapdragon, pale yellow except for the lower lip which is orange, borne on dense terminal racemes from midsummer through autumn. Fruits are capsules with winged seeds. It has an extensive root system that spreads both down and laterally making it hard to control. Leaves are a green color with a small width, and have points at both ends. When shoots grow to about 16 to 24 inches tall they begin to flower.

Johnson County is fortunate in that we do not have much of this aggressive, persistent weed. Successful control of Yellow toadflax involves early detection and quick treatment. Young or newly established patches can be controlled with herbicides but becomes increasingly difficult as time passes. There are some bio-agents available for Yellow toadflax but should not be considered in most cases here because we have so little of it and the priority should be attempted eradication instead of just management. Burning, grazing, and pulling the weed usually won't work because it doesn't kill the roots. Several treatments of herbicides may be required to control large established patches.

