

# Yellow Toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*)

YT LINA VUL

Rhizomatous perennial up to 1 metre tall. Introduced from Eurasia in the mid 1800's as an ornamental, fabric dye, and folk remedy.



### Distribution

Extensive distribution in the Southern Interior.

### Interesting Facts:

Also known as “butter and eggs”. Leaves and stems look extremely similar to another exotic plant, Leafy spurge. Yellow toadflax, however, lacks a milky latex.

### Quick ID

Bright yellow flowers with orange spots.

Stems with numerous narrow leaves.

Alternate, green leaves are pointed at both ends.

Flowers have an unpleasant odor.

### “Look-Alike” Species

The foliage of *Lithospermum ruderale*, commonly called Lemonweed or Stoneseed, is similar in appearance but is hairy instead of smooth. It has small, pale yellow to greenish five-lobed flowers.



**Manual Treatment:** Removing the above ground portion of the plant prior to seed set reduces seed production. Repeated hand pulling can be effective if done for up to ten years.



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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**Flowers:** Bright, showy yellow flowers are attached by short stalks, fuzzy orange spot on the lower lip. Flowers have a prominent upper and lower lip; long narrow spurs arranged in a dense elongated cluster, or terminal raceme.

**Leaves and Stems:** Smooth, hairless foliage is a pale shade of green. Long, linear narrow leaves are pointed at both ends; attached directly to stem. Several stems emerge from each rootstock.

**Seeds:** Seeds are brown to black and flattened. Viable for eight years.

**Roots:** Rhizomatous, woody, well branched roots may grow several metres long. Horizontal creeping rhizomes have regenerative buds.

**Reproduction and Dispersal:** By seeds and rhizomes. Most seeds fall close to parent plants but seeds can be dispersed over short distances by wind and longer distances by birds who eat the fruits.

**Habitat Preference:** Prefers moist, rich soils; roadsides, pastures, stream and river banks, grasslands, forest clearings, and disturbed or cultivated areas. Aggressive competitor in grasslands and burned areas.

