

DYER'S WOAD

Isatis tinctoria

Brassicaceae, the mustard family

Category: Control

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FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Dyer's woad is a highly invasive plant that can form monocultures that reduce crop and rangeland production as well as the biodiversity of infested areas.
- It is a major threat to endangered species such as the Siskiyou mariposa lily and the Yreka phlox and threatens protected areas such as Yellowstone National Park.

Description

- Biennial or short-lived perennial that grows up to 4 feet tall.
- Pubescent leaves are blue-green with pale midvein.
- Basal rosette leaves are lance-shaped with rounded tip.
- Erect stems have leaves more narrow than rosette leaves that reduce as they rise up the stem.
- Bright yellow, 4-petaled flowers are borne in numerous, compound racemes forming a large, terminal panicle.
- Taproot can exceed 1.5m in depth.
- Purplish-brown, teardrop shaped fruit contain a yellow to orangish-brown seed.

Introduction and Movement

- Dyer's woad is native to Europe and was introduced to the U.S. by early settlers for use as a medicinal herb and source for blue dye.
- Inhabits disturbed sites, rangelands, pastures, roadsides, and cultivated fields.
- The seeds have a hook-like pedicel that allow it to easily hook onto animal fur, clothing, shoes, and vehicles aiding with long distance dispersal.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Dyer's woad and eradicate infestations on your property.
- When gardening, always research plants before planting and only purchase seeds from licensed nurseries.
- Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To: **KNOW WHAT YOU GROW & KNOCK IT OFF!**

Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/28902>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT: INVASIVESPECIES.IDAHO.GOV
TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES IN IDAHO, PLEASE CALL 1-877-336-8676.

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DISTRIBUTION MAP

