



Increased Sightings of Dalmatian Toadflax in Saskatchewan

In 2024 the number of sightings of Dalmatian toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*) increased across Saskatchewan. Dalmatian toadflax is classified as a prohibited weed under *The Weed Control Act*. Prohibited weed sightings in Saskatchewan are not taken lightly and trigger eradication efforts to prevent further spread to protect the landscape and stop more widespread costs and damage.

Dalmatian toadflax is not the only ornamental invasive toadflax in Saskatchewan. Yellow toadflax (*Linaria vulgaris*) was brought to Canada with early settlers as an ornamental and medicinal plant. It soon after escaped and invaded rangelands, pastures and disturbed areas. Today, yellow toadflax is classified as a noxious weed under *The Weed Control Act*. It can be found in grasslands, cropland fence lines, ditches and along railway lines. It can creep into low disturbance direct seeded fields from field margins and ditches.



Photo: Dalmatian Toadflax - Prohibited weed
(Credit: Betty Johnson)



Photo: Yellow Toadflax - Noxious weed
(Credit: Colleen Fennig)

Both yellow toadflax and Dalmatian toadflax have pale yellow snap-dragon like flowers. They can be differentiated by their leaves. Dalmatian toadflax has broader leaves that clasp the stem whereas yellow toadflax has longer slimmer leaves. Young yellow toadflax plants can look similar to young leafy spurge plants (before flowers appear). One way to tell the difference is to snap off a stem and look for white sap. If present, it is not yellow toadflax and is most likely, leafy spurge. Dalmatian toadflax grows taller than yellow toadflax and has a sturdier stem. Both reproduce by seed and by lateral roots. They start to flower mid-summer to fall but timing can vary based on site conditions.

When in doubt as to a plant's ID, please contact your division's Plant Health Technical Advisor or your weed inspector.

The Plant Health Act replaces The Pest Control Act

On June 24, 2024, *The Plant Health Act* came into force in Saskatchewan. The major changes to the Act include the list of declared pests. No longer regulated are the following pests: Clubroot, Richardson's ground squirrels, grasshoppers and the warble fly. Feral pigs and the brown or Norway rat are still declared pests as well as three diseases that impact potatoes: Bacterial ring rot, Late blight and Potato wart (new).

So how does the deregulation of clubroot, grasshoppers and gophers impact RMs and ratepayers? Firstly, if your RM has a bylaw related to the control (or destruction) of these pests, it can no longer be enforced. An RM may decide to repeal the respective bylaw but is not under obligation to do so. If you have ratepayers that have signed a clubroot management (for example), it can no longer be enforced. Your Pest Control Officer no longer has the authority to enter land to control these pests on behalf of the RM. Landowners with these pests are no longer obligated to report them to the RM.

Please follow up with your Plant Health Technical Advisor if you have questions.

REMINDERS:

Free On-farm Clubroot Soil Test Kits are available from your PHTA. Soil test results are confidential and will not be reported to the RM. Kits will be picked up from participating RMs before **November 1st** or landowners can deliver them directly to Discovery Seed Labs before then. Even though clubroot is no longer a regulated pest under *The Plant Health Act*, it is still valuable to test your fields for clubroot spores, as it is a soil-borne disease. Soil tests will help with early detection and management of the disease.

The **Invasive Plant Control Program** claim submission deadline is **October 31st**. If you have any questions on how to apply or what needs to be included in your claim package, please reach out to your Plant Health Technical Advisor. Scan the QR code or visit the SARM website: <https://sarm.ca/programs/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership/invasive-plant-control-program/>



Please join SARM in congratulating Tayo Adegeye who recently began her new role as Provincial Specialist, Pest Regulatory with the Ministry of Agriculture. We are excited to continue working with Tayo in her new role through the PBP. SARM had been diligent in the search find our next SARM Division 1, PHTA. Watch your email for that announcement coming soon!

Please contact your SARM Division Plant Health Technical Advisor for more information, to answer any questions, or to suggest content for future newsletters.

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Coming soon!

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Sustainable CAP – Pest Biosecurity Program

<https://sarm.ca/programs/sustainable-canadian-agricultural-partnership/>