



→ **Dalmatian toadflax**, a member of the figwort family, was imported from Europe for its ornamental qualities. It is now considered a noxious weed because of its extensive creeping root system, prolific seed production and the difficulty of controlling it. It also possesses an invasive quality that is well adapted to the arid sites of Arapahoe County.

Mature plants range in height of 2 to 4 feet with flowers arranged along the stems. These flowers are snapdragon in appearance and bright yellow in color. Sometimes the flower centers are a deep orange or red color. Leaves are heart-shaped and clasp the stem. The leaves have a particularly waxy feel to them. This wax layer is able to repel most herbicides, especially if they are not applied with a suitable surfactant. Dalmatian toadflax is similar to yellow or common toadflax



Dalmatian toadflax, leafy spurge and diffuse knapweed are a huge threat to all lands within Arapahoe County based on how fast they are already spreading within the County and the locations where they have invaded elsewhere in Colorado.



- **Leafy spurge** is another import from Europe that readily invades native lands. It will take over a wide variety of native habitats including riparian areas, rangelands, pastures, and waste areas. It's massive underground root system is the main reason it is successful at invading these sites, often reaching depths of 30 feet and able to sprout new plants from root fragments as small as ½ inch long. Leafy spurge is also poisonous to some animals and humans.

Plants will vary in height from 1 to 3 feet and are pale green in color. Flowers are a yellowish-green color, enclosed by a pair of yellow-green bracts. These bracts are heart-shaped and do have the appearance of a flower. Seeds are contained within pods and there are three seeds per pod. This pod will burst during the summer, propelling the seeds up to fifteen feet.



→ **Diffuse knapweed** is an introduced species from Europe. It typically invades waste areas but can be found on rangeland, pastures, riparian areas and along roadsides. Growing conditions in Arapahoe County tend to favor growth since diffuse knapweed does best in semi-arid growing conditions. Infestations are widespread throughout the western portion of Arapahoe County.

Mature plants can grow to heights of 1 to 3 feet from a single stem that produces many branches. Flowers are white, although they can be purple in color. This purple flower variation is often mistaken for spotted knapweed except that the presence of sharp bracts on the base of the flower is unique to diffuse knapweed. A single plant can produce up to 18,000 seeds with the seeds able to remain viable in the soil for ten years. Its life cycle is biennial or that of a short-lived perennial. Diffuse knapweed kills off surrounding plants by producing a natural growth inhibitor.