

Dyers Woad Fact Sheet

Isatis tinctoria

Brassicaceae Family



Photos by Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

Distinguishing Features:

- ❶ **Flowers:** Bright yellow with four petals.
- ❷ **Seeds:** Black seed pods. Plants spread primarily by seed, but seed *does not* remain viable in the soil for long periods of time.
- ❸ **Leaves:** Bluish green with a cream colored mid rib.
- ❹ **Flowering Time:** April - May (after the first year). Seeds mature in June - July.
- ❺ **Life cycle:** Woad is a biennial and doesn't flower until the second year.

Impacts:

- Invades rangelands, pastures, roadsides, orchards, forests, and waste areas.
- Dyers woad alters the native plant community as well as reducing forage value for livestock.
- Plants produce an average of 350-500 seeds per plant and as many as 10,000 seeds.
- Plant populations can spread at a rate of 2-100 acres within a couple of years.

Control:

- Hand pulling is the most effective method of controlling infestations.
- Plants should be pulled at least twice a year. Once when the flowers start to bloom, followed by a second pull 2-3 weeks later to eliminate any remaining plants.
- **It is important to remove pulled plants from the area if they have started to go to seed. Seed development may still continue even if the plant has been pulled.**
- For larger infestations, a spring chemical application when flowers are pre-bloom is most effective.
- Metsulfuron and chlorsulfuron offer excellent to good control respectively when applied in early spring.



Volunteers pull woad at the annual City Creek Canvon Woad Pull.



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