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DYER'S WOAD MANAGEMENT TIPS

Dyer's woad, a member of the Mustard family, is a winter annual, biennial or short-lived perennial forb with a deep taproot. The flowers are yellow, with petals that are 1/8 inch long and clustered around the upper stem. The leaves are bluish-green with a distinctive white midrib. The seed pods turn purplish-brown when ripe and hang down from the stalks like teardrops. **Seed longevity is one year.** The plant usually grows one to four feet tall. Dyer's woad can significantly reduce cattle grazing capacity and crop and rangeland production.



Management actions should focus on reducing seed production and must be planned for many consecutive years at the existing site in order to prevent seed formation/dispersal and to monitor for, and appropriately treat, any new plants that emerge.

Dyer's woad has a limited presence in Montana, thanks to the Dyer's Woad Task Force. If you see this plant, please contact your local county Weed District.

Effective control measures for the management of Dyer's woad include:

1. **Mechanical (hand pulling & digging):** Hand pulling and digging can be effective for small infestations, and are most effective from when the plant has bolted through the early flowering stage. Remove as much of the root as possible to prevent the plant from re-growing. Always place flowering plants in bags to prevent seed dispersal. Return to the area for several years to monitor for and remove any new plants. Wear gloves when pulling or digging plants.
2. **Herbicide: Always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Calibrate your equipment to ensure that you are adding the proper amount of herbicide to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control Dyer's woad. **Do NOT use these herbicides in lawns, turf or ornamental settings – read the label.** *For the most effective control, apply herbicides when plants are in the rosette stage up to the flowering stage.*

Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:

*Escort XP:	1/8 – 1/5 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Telar XP:	1/5 – 1/2 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Cimarron Plus:	1/4 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.

Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

*Escort XP:	1/2 -1 oz herbicide per acre.
*Telar XP:	1 – 2.6 oz herbicide per acre.
*Cimarron Plus:	1.25 oz herbicide per acre.

NOTE: Adding 2,4-D to your tank with any of the above herbicides may improve performance. Add at the rate of 1 – 2 quarts per acre for large sprayers or 1 – 2 ounces per gallon of water for backpack sprayers.

NOTE: Adding a surfactant to your tank mix may enhance the performance of your herbicide and is required for certain herbicides (read the label). Add 0.5 - 1 oz per gallon of water for backpack sprayers or 1 – 2 pints per 100 gallons for large sprayers.

*** denotes that a surfactant is required for the herbicide to be effective**

3. **Cultural:** Competition from desirable plants will reduce the spread of Dyer's woad.
4. **Integrated management:** Management of Dyer's woad is more effective when more than one strategy is used.