

# Greater Butter-and-Eggs

## *Linaria vulgaris*

**Common Name:** Greater Butter-and-Eggs

**Scientific Name:** *Linaria vulgaris*

**Family:** Scrophulariaceae

### Description

This very attractive plant resembles a yellow perennial snapdragon. It is widely found in gardens and invading roadsides in most Yukon communities. It is usually less than 50 cm tall, persistent and mildly toxic. These plants are restricted noxious weeds in Alaska.

### Range in Yukon

Greater Butter-and-eggs has been found in most communities, primarily from intentional garden plantings. It is widespread in the Whitehorse and Dawson areas, and along the South Canol Road in the Quiet Lake area, Watson Lake and Haines Junction. It is mainly spread through yard waste.

### Similar Species

Dalmatian Toadflax (*Linaria dalmatica*) is much more invasive. It is larger with oval clasping leaves and in Yukon is known only from the Alaska Highway on the banks of the Rancheria River where it was apparently eradicated.

### Ecological Impact

Both species are persistent and aggressive invader and may form dense colonies and suppress native grasses and other perennials. They contain a poisonous glucoside that is moderately poisonous to livestock. They are known to alter local pollination ecology and reduce yields in croplands.

### Control

Perennial plants require depletion of nutrient reserves in the root system, prevention of seed production and prevention of dispersal. Greater Butter-and-eggs reproduces both by seed and roots in Yukon.



*Greater Butter-and-Eggs*  
Photo: Andrea Altberr



*Dalmatian Toadflax*  
Photo: B. Steward