

Isatis tinctoria

Dyer's Woad

Other common names:
Marlahan mustard

Brassicaceae, the mustard family
Category: CONTROL



Diagnostic Characteristics

- Winter annual, biennial, or short-lived perennial; grow from 1-4 feet tall
- Basal rosette leaves are oblanceolate to elliptic, bluish-green, and covered with a powdery white bloom
- Stem leaves are alternate, clasping, lance shaped, with a prominent whitish midvein
- Flowers are 4-petaled, bright yellow, and in clusters on branch tips
- Fruits hang from the stem, are dark purplish-brown to black, teardrop shaped, and contain only one seed per fruit

Background

- Native to Europe; cultivated for centuries as a medicinal herb and source for blue dye
- Brought to U.S. by early settlers
- Inhabits rights-of-way, disturbed sites, rangelands, pastures, and agronomic crops
- Reproduces by seed

Photo Credit:

Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org

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