

Dyer's Woad (*Isatis tinctoria*)

Description

A winter annual, biennial, or a short lived perennial. The thick tap roots can be 3-6 meters in depth. The leaves are simple blueish-green covered with fine hair. The vein on the upper part of the leaf blade is creamy white. The stems range from 30-120 cm tall usually has 1 main stem that is simple below and branched above. The stem leaves are spear shaped and embraced by the stem. Flowers have a flat top with yellow petals. These can be found in terminal groups at the branch/stem end. The pear shaped fruit is a single seed closed in a flattened green pod. Sooner or later it will turn a black or a dark purplish brown color that is used to identify this weed after flowering.

Key Identifiers

- ✓ Ranges from 30-120 cm tall
- ✓ Numerous flowers that are yellow and very small
- ✓ Basal leaves are oval and have stem, stem leaves appear to be clasping stem
- ✓ Seed pods turn dark purple to black

Location in Canada

Located in British Columbia., Newfoundland, Ontario and Quebec. Isolated plants are suspected to be in Alberta.

Resources

<http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/plant/ipc/weedinfo/isatis.htm#anchor1159952>

<http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/forb/isatin/all.html>

Similar species

Dyer's woad can be sometimes confused with other members in the Mustard family but it is distinguished by its unique pear shaped fruits.

