

# Common mullein

*Verbascum thapsus*

**SOMEWHAT INVASIVE – established in the region**

Invasive habitat: grows in partial shade to full sunlight, usually in disturbed areas such as waste sites and roadsides.

Native range: Europe



Common in the Arrowhead in roadsides



## IDENTIFICATION



Growth form: herbaceous biennial that reaches 2 to 6 feet in height and is covered in gray, branching hairs.



Flowers: yellow flowers grow in dense, spike-like clusters. Blooms June-Sept.



Leaves: first year plants grow as a basal rosette, and second year plants bolt and have alternate leaves. Leaves are softly hairy, and grow up to 15" long by 5" wide.



Seeds: prolific seed producer whose seeds can persist up to 100 years in the soil bank. Reproduction is entirely via seed.

## CONTROL



**Manual**: digging and hand pulling are effective when the plant is severed at the root crown, and will control small populations.



**Chemical**: glyphosate and triclopyr both provide effective control.



**Prescribed fire**: fire will kill plants, but it also provides habitat for colonization, and make facilitate invasion.



**Cultural**: restore disturbed sites with native vegetation to provide competition for resources.



**Mechanical**: mowing may reduce flowering and seed production.