

Evaluated but not listed

impact risk level

Verbascum thapsus Scrophulariaceae Common mullein



VETH

KEY CHARACTERISTICS

- growth** Erect biennial herb. First year plants low-growing rosettes. Plants mature and flower in their second year.
- flower** 5 yellow petals, borne on a large spike; flowers bloom a few at a time from June-August.
- stems** Grows 5-10 ft high, including the conspicuous flowering stalk.
- leaves** Alternate along the flowering stalks and are much larger toward the base of the plant. Bluish gray-green and feltlike ranging from 4-12 inches in length and 1-5 inches in width.
- fruit** Tiny seeds are pitted and rough with wavy ridges and deep grooves and can germinate after lying dormant in the soil for several decades.



flower color

Elevation:
5000-7000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
Woodlands, forests and alpine meadows.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Requires bare ground to germinate and is shade intolerant. Mullein will grow in almost any open area including meadows as well as neglected pastures, road cuts and industrial areas. These plants prefer dry sandy soils.

It is a prolific seeder and its seeds last a very long time in the soil, although most seeds fall near the parent plant.

It can be found where mean annual precipitation is greater than 3-6 inches and the growing season lasts for a minimum of 140 days.

