

Common Name: **Weld**

Genus: *Reseda*

Species: *luteola*

Family: Resedaceae

AKA: Yellow weed, Dyers Weed



## Historical Uses:

**Medical:** “The root as also the whole herbe heates and dries in the third degree: it cuts, attenuates, resolueth, opens, digests. Some also commend it against the punctures and bites of venomous creatures, not only outwardly applied to the wound, but also taken inwardly in drinke. Also commended against the infection of the Plague: some for these reasons terme it *Theriacara*.” (1), Gerard p. 494-495)

“*Matthiolus* says, that the root hereof cures tough phlegm, digests raw phlegm, thins gross humours, dissolves hard tumours, and opens obstructions. Some do highly commend it against the biting of venomous creatures, to be taken inwardly, and applied outwardly to the hurt place; as also for the plague or pestilence. The people in some counties of England do use to bruise the herb, and lay it to cuts or wounds in the hands or legs, to heal them.” (2) *Note: Culpeper lists this plant as “Weld or Wold.” The description seems to describe Woad, *Isatis tinctoria*.*



**Folklore/Astrology:** “It is hot and dry of temperature.” (3)

## Contemporary Uses:

**Parts Used:** Whole plant (except roots)

**Medicinal:** “Internally for stomach ache and diarrhea.” (4)

**Economic:** “Yields natural dye in shades of yellow, orange, and olive.” (5)



**Area of Origin:** Europe, Central Asia

**Physical description:** Annual or perennial with a basal rosette of dark green, linear to ovate, wavy-margined leaves.

**Plant type:** Annual or perennial

**Height:** To 5'

**Flower color:** Yellow-green

**Flowering period:** Spring through summer

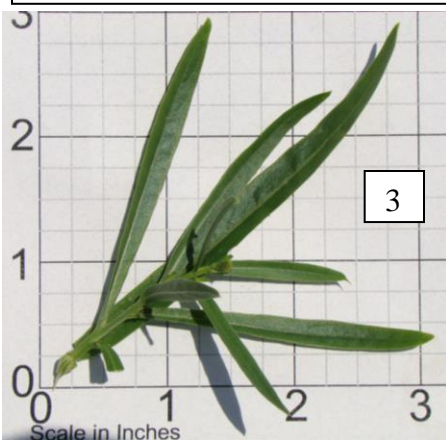
**Soil type/requirements:** Well-drained to dry, alkaline soil.

**Hardiness zone:** USDA 6

**Sun requirements:** Full sun

**Propagation:** By seed sown in late winter at 55 degrees F or *in situ* in early spring or autumn.

Below: Close-up of the individual leaves



Above: the Weld flower stalk.  
Generally long, narrow and mostly upright.

### Sources

1. Gerard, p. 494-495
2. Culpepper p. 193-194)
3. Gerard, p. 494-495
4. Bown, p. 342p. 195
5. Ibid

### Illustrations/Images:

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| 1. Gerard's Herbal | 1633 ed. |
| 2. PSUMG           | 2014     |
| 3. PSUMG           | 2014     |
| 4. PSUMG           | 2014     |