

COMMON BUGLOSS



BOTANICAL NAME: *Anchusa officinalis*

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? Common bugloss is a perennial with a deep taproot that can grow 1 to 2 feet tall. Each plant can have several flowering stalks with hairy, angular stems. The slightly pointed leaves are succulent and fleshy and covered with stiff hairs. The flowers are on the ends of the stalks, blue to purple in color, with white centers. Each flower stem is coiled like a fiddleneck at first and as each flower bud opens, the coil gradually straightens out. Common bugloss is often mistaken for vipers bugloss.

WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW? This native of Russia prefers dry, sandy to gravelly soils and will invade pastures, rangelands, alfalfa fields and waste areas.

WHEN DOES IT BLOOM? Attractive purple blooms start to appear at the end of the stalks in May. The first year growth is a rosette; second year a single flower stalk. In following years multiple stalks arise from a single taproot.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD? This plant spreads by seed only. Each flower can produce four seeds (nutlets). One plant produces an average of 900 seeds.

CONTROL: Prevention is always the best control method. Learn to identify this plant and to control the infestation when you first notice it. You will have more success eliminating small infestations. Large infestations may require a variety of control methods and a number of years to control.



NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL

- Beware of fill dirt, gravel, hay and seed from outside your area.
- Encourage desirable vegetation by the use of fertilizer and water.
- Tilling, digging and pulling can be effective. Special care must be taken to sever the roots below the crown of common bugloss.

CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Several herbicides are effective at or before bud stage and again in the fall on the rosette stage with a surfactant added to penetrate the hairs on the leaf. Check with the Noxious Weed Control Office for specific recommendations.

NOTE: This weed is on the Kootenai County Noxious Weed List; it is not a State of Idaho Noxious Weed at this time.

Want more information? Contact:

Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control

10905 N. Ramsey Road

Hayden, ID 83835

208-446-1290 / TTY 208-446-2145

kcnoxiousweeds@kcgov.us or www.kcweeds.com

Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208)446-2145 with 3 days advance notice.