



HOUNDSTONGUE

BOTANICAL NAME: *Cynoglossum officinale*

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? Houndstongue is a biennial that forms a rosette (leaves near the ground in a circle with no visible stem) the first year. The second year the plant produces a single, hairy, coarse flowering stock which can grow 1 to 4 feet tall with a thick, black, woody taproot. The leaves are oblong and rough, like a hound's tongue. The flowers are small and reddish-purple and appear at the end of the stems.

WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW? Houndstongue plants generally are found along trails and roadsides, on the edge of wooded areas and in disturbed areas.

WHEN DOES IT BLOOM? Small, attractive reddish-purple flowers begin to appear in June and seeds are formed and dropped by the end of summer.

HOW DOES THIS PLANT SPREAD? Houndstongue reproduces only from seed, but can spread great distances because the barbs on the seed pod cling to clothing, machinery and animals. Each flower produces three to four seeds in a cluster which are flat and teardrop-shaped with a hard seed coat covered with barbs. Mature plants can produce up to 2,000 seeds. Seeds will germinate February to May.



CAUTION: Houndstongue contains toxins that are especially toxic to cattle and horses. The plant is rarely eaten in the green state; however, animals will eat the dried plant in hay. Death in animals from houndstongue poisoning is due to severe, irreversible liver failure

NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of seeds clinging to clothing or animals.
- Beware of hay and seed from outside your area. Use only certified weed-free hay.
- Digging of young rosettes in the autumn or early spring gives effective control.
- Mowing or cutting flowering stalks will help reduce seed production.

CHEMICAL CONTROL:

First year rosettes are easily controlled with herbicides applied late May to mid-June. Second year plants are difficult to control with herbicides. Contact your Noxious Weed Control Office or County Extension Office for herbicide recommendations.

For more information please contact: **Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control**

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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.