

Common Bugloss (*Anchusa officinale*)

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Deep tap-rooted perennial in the Borage Family with hairy, angular stems growing 0.8 metres tall.



Distribution

Very rare throughout the province.

Please report *all* occurrences.

Quick ID

Deep purple to blue flowers with white centers.

Flowers originate at the ends of the stalks with each flower stem coiled like a fiddle neck at first.

Has fleshy, hairy leaves that grow smaller in size towards the top of the stem.

Interesting Facts:

Though not poisonous to livestock or wildlife, it has been shown to reduce carrying capacity in pasture lands.

“Look-Alike” Species

‘Hackelia floribunda’ is a species of flowering plant in the borage family. This is a lush biennial or perennial herb with hairy stems reaching a maximum height of about 1 meter. They emerge as a leafy clump, surrounded by many smooth lance-shaped leaves up to 24 centimeters long. There are few leaves at the ends of the stems, which hold terminal inflorescences of blue flowers. Each flower has five lobes with petal-like appendages at their bases. The fruit is a tiny, mildly prickly nutlet.



Manual Treatment: Cutting or mowing before plants flower will prevent seed production. Flowering stalks should be bagged, removed from the site, and burned.



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| Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec |
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Flowers: Flower stems, initially coiled like fiddleheads, straighten out as each bud opens. Deep purple to blue flowers with white centres produce four nut-like seeds each.

Leaves and Stems: Common bugloss has fleshy, hairy leaves that grow smaller in size towards the top of the stem

Seeds: Each flower produces four nut-like seeds. One plant produces an average of 900 seeds.

Roots: Long taproot. New shoots develop from root stock fragments.

Reproduction and Dispersal: Spread when seeds are eaten by animals and when seed-bearing stalks are tumbled in the wind. Vehicles, animal, human feet, redistribution of soils and gravels, and contaminated hay also spread the seeds.

Habitat Preference: Favours dry, fertile, well-drained soils. It is found on roadsides, dry fields, pastures, and disturbed areas in British Columbia.

