

## Common Crupina (*Crupina vulgaris*)

CC CRUP VUL

Slender, erect, short-lived annual, up to 1 metre tall. Begins as a fleshy oval seedling then develops into a basal rosette. Originally from the Mediterranean region.



### ***Distribution***

Not currently found in the Southern Interior.

Please report **all** occurrences.

### **Quick ID**

Long, narrow, rose-purple flowers.

Short, stiff, barb-tipped hairs on leaf margins.

Fleshy, oval-shaped rosette leaves with distinct purple midribs.

Seeds with a ring of dark, stiff bristles.

### **Interesting Facts:**

Unpalatable forage for grazing animals. Currently most prolific in Idaho.

### **“Look-Alike” Species**

Several **non-native** knapweed species, such as this Russian knapweed, appear similar to Common Crupina in overall appearance, but lack bristly, barb-tipped hairs on the leaf margins.



**Manual Treatment:** Hand-pulling or hoeing can be effective for small infestations. Plants should be controlled before they set seed, and follow-up treatments may be necessary.



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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**Flowers:** Narrow, 1.3 cm long flower heads composed of 3 to 6 rose-purple disk flowers. One to five flower heads occur at branch tips or in upper leaf axils (where leaves are attached to stems).



**Leaves and Stems:** One stiff, branched flower stem develops during its second year; rosette leaves wither. Stem leaves are alternate, stalkless, and smaller toward the top. Rosette and stem leaves are deeply lobed with short, stiff, barb-tipped hairs on the leaf margins, making the plant prickly feeling.

**Seeds:** Iridescent, black-brown, oblong seeds with a ring of dark, stiff bristles encircling the end.



**Roots:** Short, dense, fibrous taproot.

**Reproduction and Dispersal:** By seed only. Seeds typically fall near the parent plant but seeds and whole flower heads can be dispersed further by soil movement, water, animals and human activity.

**Habitat Preference:** Prefers dry, south facing slopes. Disturbed areas, grasslands, open forests, canyons, riparian areas, croplands, pastures and roadsides.

