



Viper's Bugloss

Botanical Name: *Echium vulgare*

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? This biennial produces a flat rosette in its first year and tall flower stalks in its second year. The leaves and stems are covered with stiff hairs. The long, dark tap root dies out after the second season.

WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW? Vipers Bugloss grows best in sunny areas; meadows, overgrazed pastures, poorly drained slopes and roadsides. It usually will not thrive in cultivated ground.

WHEN DOES IT BLOOM? The bright blue flowers with hot pink stamens bloom June to September.

HOW DOES THIS PLANT SPREAD? Vipers bugloss spreads from seed. Most seeds fall to the ground near the parent plant. The rough seeds can stick to clothing, animal fur, and feathers.

HOW DO I CONTROL IT? Early detection is the best preventative. Destroy plants before they become invasive by digging or pulling prior to bloom. Cut and destroy flower heads when they appear.



See the reverse side for information on mechanical, cultural, biological and chemical control of Vipers Bugloss. Also see our Chemical Treatment handout for more information on using herbicides.

For more information please contact:

Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control
10905 N. Ramsey Road
Hayden, ID 83835
208-446-1290

kcnoxioussweeds@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.

How to Control Vipers Bugloss

Vipers Bugloss is a biennial that reproduces by seed only. Control is accomplished by preventing seed production.

Mechanical Digging plants out can give very effective control if the entire roots are removed and it's done before seed is produced. Mowing is not an effective control and can stimulate growth.

Cultural The best long term weed control is to get your desirable native plants thriving. Killing weeds is only one step, you have to also replace them with something good. Seed and fertilize so your grass can take nutrients away from the weeds and not leave available open soil for new weeds to germinate.

Biological There are currently no insects available as biological control agents for Vipers Bugloss.

Chemical **See our Chemical Treatment handout for more information on using herbicides.*

- **Chlorsulfuron** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Telar XP**. It is safe on most grasses and can be very effective on Vipers Bugloss during the rosette, bolting, and flower bud stages.
- **Metsulfuron Methyl** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Escort XP**. It is safe on most grasses and can be effective on Vipers Bugloss if applied during the rosette to bolting stages.
- **Picloram** is the active ingredient in herbicide products such as **Tordon 22K**. It is broadleaf selective and can be effective on Vipers Bugloss but it is federally restricted and requires a license to buy or apply.

Chemical recommendations are based on University of Idaho Extension Bulletin 865 [Idaho's Noxious Weeds 2011 Control Guidelines Noncrop and Rangeland Sites](#), the book [Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States](#) published by UC Davis Weed Research & Information Center, and herbicide labels.