

## Blueweed

*Echium vulgare*

Boraginaceae (Borage Family)

Category:

Noxious



Link: Herbaria



- **Information:** Introduced from Africa as an ornamental, also known as Viper's Bugloss, increases in over-grazed pastures.
- **Life cycle:** Biennial.
- **Root:** Black taproot/fibrous lateral roots.
- **Leaves:** Basal leaves narrow, 1-15cm long, stalked; stem leaves alternate, smaller and stalkless near apex, all leaves covered with stiff hairs.
- **Stems:** Up to 90cm tall, covered with short hairs and scattered long, stiff hairs which often have swollen dark bases that form flecks.
- **Flower:** Numerous flowers 1-2cm long arranged on upper side of short stems that elongate after flowering. Buds reddish purple, becoming bright blue upon flowering. Petals fused at base into a short tube that flares.
- **Seed/Fruit:** Nutlets clustered in groups of four, greyish brown, angular, roughened, and wrinkled.
- **Toxic:** Horses, sheep.
- **Control:** Hand pick, control in rosette stage.

<http://www.invasiveplants.ab.ca/Downloads/FS-Blueweed.pdf>