

Common bugloss

Anchusa officinalis L.

Borage family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Flowers are blue to purple with white centers and straight rather than the curved tubes found in annual bugloss
- ❑ Flower stem initially coiled like a fiddleneck, but uncoils as flowers open
- ❑ Leaves are fleshy with a rough hairy surface; basal leaves to 8 inches long and oblong, stem leaves narrow and smaller
- ❑ Mature plants can have several flowering stalks
- ❑ Each flower can produce four seeds (nutlets)



Biology and ecology

- A perennial plant 1 to 2 feet tall with a tap root
- First year growth is a rosette; second year a single flower stalk, subsequently many stalks
- Flowers from May through July
- Spreads by seeds only
- Grows in dry areas including dry land alfalfa fields where its succulent leaves cause mold in baled hay



Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of fill dirt, hay and seed from outside your area

Biological - None known at this time

Cultural - Good competitive vegetation helps prevent infestation but doesn't stop it entirely

Mechanical - Cultivation, digging and pulling can all be effective if sufficient tap root is removed

Chemical - Several effective at label rates at or before bud stage with a surfactant added to penetrate the leaf hairs



Where found – Common in the Enterprise region of Stevens County and occasionally elsewhere in the southern 2/3 of the county. Large infestations in northern Spokane County; first reported in Washington state in Spokane County.