

Have you seen this invasive plant?

Houndstongue is a toxic weed that can poison livestock and infest meadows and grasslands.

Learn more at www.nwcb.wa.gov

Flowers form 4 seeds. The seed surface is covered with barbed hooks that attach easily to animals and people for dispersal.



Flower clusters occur at and near the tips of stems. Flowers are a dull reddish-purple to burgundy and 3/8 inch wide. They have 5 lobes.



Infestations with current growth and old flowering stems.



Houndstongue is a biennial or short-lived perennial that grows 1-4 feet tall. Plants begin as a rosette of narrow, hairy leaves that are 4-12 inches long. Leaves on flowerings stems are alternately arranged and get smaller going up the stem.

Why is houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*) a noxious weed?

- This poisonous plant contains pyrrolizidine alkaloids that damage the liver. Livestock, especially cattle and horses, are susceptible, while sheep are less so.
- Plants are still toxic when dry, making it particularly problematic if in hay.
- Seeds embedded in cattle hair and sheep wool can lead to market losses due to removal costs.

Where do you find houndstongue?

- Houndstongue grows in disturbed areas like rangeland and timberlands. It is also shade tolerant and thrives in wetter grasslands.
- It is found throughout eastern Washington and a few locations in western Washington.

What can you do?

- Learn to identify this Class B noxious weed.
- Please note that control is required in select counties in Washington and recommended in all other counties.
- Report any sightings to your county noxious weed control board or to noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov.



Washington State
**Noxious Weed
Control Board**

