

Houndstongue

Cynoglossum officinale L.

Boraginaceae family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Leaves are hairy, have distinct veins and are shaped like a hound's tongue
- ❑ Leaves alternate, up to 12" long & 3" wide on lower stem, smaller higher up the stem
- ❑ Flowers are small, attractive, reddish-purple and terminal on outwardly drooping stems
- ❑ Seed pods are about the size & shape of a split pea with hooked prickles that cling to clothing and animals

Biology and ecology

- A tap-rooted biennial growing 1-4' tall in year two
- Found in pastures, disturbed areas and roadsides
- Can cause liver damage in animals resulting in death 6 months after a lethal dose is consumed; sheep less often poisoned than cattle and horses
- Tolerates shade but more robust in sunlight
- Four nutlets break apart into single seeds

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of seeds clinging to clothing or animals & of hay & seed from outside your area

Biological - None available to date, but a promising agent may be available very soon...

Cultural - Good vigorous grass cover will prevent heavy weed growth but not totally prevent it

Mechanical - Will not withstand regular cultivation, digging, pulling and cutting are effective if done frequently; if done after flowering, plants need to be removed from site and disposed of to prevent seed spread

Chemical - Several effective at label rates; adjuvant helpful due to hairy leaf structure

Where found - Scattered throughout Stevens County particularly where spread by domestic animals or livestock or, in a few instances, as an ornamental



plants in bud stage



unripe seeds