

Houndstongue

Cynoglossum officinale

Description

Plant is highly toxic, it contains alkaloids that may cause liver cells to stop reproducing.

Habit

Biennial; 20-122 cm (8-48 in) tall; 1st year growth is vegetative, 2nd year is flowering.

Leaves

1st year - petiolate, elliptical, dark green, 6-8 in (15-20 cm) long; 2nd year - Alternate, sessile or clasping, narrow towards top of plant.

Stems

Erect; 30-120 cm tall.

Flowers

Appear on racemes from the axils of upper leaves, reddish-purple in color, 5 lobed corolla.

Fruits and Seeds

Indehiscent, divided into 1-4 nutlets that are 5-7mm long, flattened along the top and covered with small hooked burrs or spines.





Habitat

Native to Eurasia. Found in riparian zones, coastlands, grasslands and agricultural areas.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Native Velvetweed (*Gaura parviflora*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Mowing second year plants during flowering but before seed maturation; effectively controlled using any of the several readily available general use herbicides such as Picloram, 2,4-D, metsulfuron or dicamba.

Credits

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