

Chicory

Cichorium intybus

Description

Habit

Biennial or perennial herbaceous plant that can grow from 1-5 ft (0.3-1.5 m) tall.

Leaves

Rosette leaves are 2-6 inches long, oblong with rough hairs on both the upper and lower surfaces. Margins shallowly toothed or deeply dissected. Lance-shaped stem leaves are small, sparse, alternate, and clasping with margins either smooth or slightly toothed.

Stems

Erect, round, hollow, nearly leafless, green to reddish brown in color. They produce a milky sap when cut and the lower parts are hairy.

Flowers

Showy clusters on upper branches. Bright blue in color with toothed squared ends. Typically bloom



in the morning and close later in the day.

Fruits and Seeds

Fruits are about 0.13 in. (0.3 cm) long, dark brown in color and wedge shaped. Each contain one seed. Capable of producing close to 3000 seeds per plant.

Habitat

Native to Africa, Europe and Asia. Can be found along roadsides, railroads, disturbed sites, waste ground and cultivated fields.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Showy blue lettuce (*Mulgedium pulchellum*)

Credits

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