

# 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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