

# 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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