

## Common gypsyweed

### *Veronica officinalis*

#### Description

Found in agricultural seed, such as alfalfa. Green parts used for medicinal properties to treat coughs and gastrointestinal distress.

#### Habit

Spreading perennial, 2-10 in tall forb, hairy, creeping with erect branches.

#### Leaves

Opposite, oval to elliptical narrowing to the base, 1 1/2-3 times as long as wide, finely toothed, almost stalkless.

#### Stems

Hairy; green in color.

#### Flowers

Light blue in color, 4-parted, 1/4-1/3 in wide, lobes longer than the tube, inflorescence is stalked, spike-like cluster (raceme) of stalked flowers only from the upper leaf axils.

#### Fruits and Seeds





Seed pod, triangular.

### **Habitat**

Native to Asia, Africa and Europe. Found in dry areas; fields, upland woods.

### **Reproduction**

By seed.

### **Similar**

Other species of Speedwell (*Veronica* spp.).

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Mowing; adequate fertilization; effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as triclopyr and dicamba.

### **Credits**

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