

*Echium vulgare*

# Vipers Bugloss

Other common names:  
blueweed

Boraginaceae, the borage family  
Category: CONTROL



## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Winter annual or biennial; grows up to 3 feet tall
- Leaves are alternate, lance shaped, with swollen bases and covered with stiff, bristly hairs
- Flowers are purplish-blue; filaments exserted (projected beyond the surrounding parts of the flower)
- Fruits are 4-roughened nutlets

## Background

- Native to the Mediterranean; introduced as an ornamental
- Inhabits non-crop areas, rangelands, and disturbed sites
- Reproduces by seed
- **Has toxic alkaloids, especially toxic to horses and pigs**

Photo Credit:

Bill Hargrave, Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control

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