

Blueweed

Echium vulgare

Boraginaceae (Borage Family)

Category:

Noxious



• **Information:** Introduced from Africa as an ornamental, also known as Viper's Bugloss, increases in over-grazed pastures.

• **Life cycle:** Biennial.

• **Root:** Black taproot/fibrous lateral roots.

• **Leaves:** Basal leaves narrow, 1-15cm long, stalked; stem leaves alternate, smaller and stalkless near apex, all leaves covered with stiff hairs.

• **Stems:** Up to 90cm tall, covered with short hairs and scattered long, stiff hairs which often have swollen dark bases that form flecks.

• **Flower:** Numerous flowers 1-2cm long arranged on upper side of short stems that elongate after flowering. Buds reddish purple, becoming bright blue upon flowering. Petals fused at base into a short tube that flares.

• **Seed/Fruit:** Nutlets clustered in groups of four, greyish brown, angular, roughened, and wrinkled.

• **Toxic:** Horses, sheep.

• **Control:** Hand pick, control in rosette stage.

<http://www.invasiveplants.ab.ca/Downloads/FS-Blueweed.pdf>