

# Houndstongue

*Cynoglossum officinale*



- Taprooted rosettes form in the first year of a two year growth cycle. A stiff central stem bolts in the second season and produces reddish purple flowers by early-summer.
- Leaves are oblong to lance-shaped and alternate along the stem, 1-12 in. long, 1-3 in. wide with unique vein patterns
- Mature plants, 1-4 ft. tall, produce velcro-like seeds that readily attach to clothing and animal fur as a method of dispersal
- Reproduces only by seed
- A problem in forests, rangelands and pastures

## Negative Impacts

- Poisonous to grazing animals. If choices are limited or in baled hay fed in winter, animals may be forced to eat it.
- 2 pounds is a fatal dose
- Reduces agricultural production
- Infestations reduce or eliminate wildlife use



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**Chemical Control** (Always add non-ionic surfactant @ 1 oz for each 3 gallons of water)

Spring or Fall Rosettes (before bolting or stalk formation in Spring):

### 2,4-D Amine

- 2 to 3 quarts per acre
- For hand spray, 3 to 5 oz per gallon of water

### Escort

- 1-2 oz per acre

After Bolting or Stalk Formation:

### 2,4-D Amine plus Tordon (Restricted)

- 1 quart (2,4-D) plus 1 quart (Tordon) per acre to active growing plants from rosette to almost flowering
- Do not use Tordon near water or desirable trees

### Escort

- 1 to 2 oz per acre to active growing plants from rosette to bolting

*After seeds have formed is the worst time to apply herbicides*

### Mechanical Control:

- **Live plants:** Cut taproot 2 inches below soil
- If seeds are formed, carefully bag and dispose of
- **Old seedy stalks:** Prior years dead plants with hanging seeds can be carefully bagged
- Garden pruning snips, wire cutters or a sharp knife works well for collecting old seed stalks for disposal

**Stopping flowering and seed production is critical for success.  
Mowing is ineffective.**

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