



# Vipers Bugloss

*Echium vulgare*



- Biennial or short-lived Perennial
- Grows 1-3 feet tall
- Found in pastures, disturbed areas, and waterways.
- Cause skin irritation to humans and is toxic to horses and cattle

**Cache County Vegetation  
Management Division  
435-752-1562  
[jake.forsgren@cachecounty.gov](mailto:jake.forsgren@cachecounty.gov)**

## Suggested Control Methods for Vipers Bugloss

### Manual & Mechanical Control (Best for Small Areas)

**Pulling/Digging**- Best done when soil is moist, removing the entire taproot is crucial to prevent re-growth.

**Mowing/Cutting**- Repeated mowing or cutting before flowering can deplete root reserves and prevent seed set, but will not fully eradicate established plants.

**Protective Gear**- Wear long sleeves, gloves, and eye protection to avoid skin irritation from the plant's hairs

### Chemical Control (For Larger Infestations)

**Selective Herbicides**-Use 2,4-D, Dicamba + 2,4-D, or Metsulfuron-methyl with a surfactant on actively growing plants before flowering. These target broadleaf weeds but spare grasses.

**Non-Selective**: Glyphosate works but kills all other plants, so use as a spot treatment and re-seed desirable vegetation.

**Timing**: Apply herbicides to seedlings in spring or to established plants from midsummer to autumn.

### Cultural & Preventative Methods

**Healthy Vegetation**: Maintain competitive crops or pastures to outcompete viper's bugloss.

**Prevent Disturbance**: Avoid overgrazing or unnecessary cultivation, as the weed thrives in disturbed soil.

**Clean Up**: Clean equipment, clothing, and animals to avoid spreading seeds to new areas

### Biological Control

No agents currently approved for release in the U.S., although research is ongoing.