



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

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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.