

Plant: Houndstongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*)

Identification: Houndstongue is a biennial plant that reproduces by seed, growing 1-4 feet tall. It has hairy and rough leaves that are lance shaped. Houndstongue has reddish-purple flowers that are 5 lobed. The seeds are egg shaped, with hooked prickles that easily attach to clothing, fur, or feathers and can travel long distances, spreading this plant easily. The seeds are in a hard shell, making them viable in the soil around 4-7 years. Houndstongue generally is found in riparian habitats with a lot of moisture, near creeks, in wet grasslands, and open disturbed areas. It is a highly competitive plant that is toxic to livestock, attacking the liver and producing neurological effects.

Defense: Since this plant spreads by seed only, mechanical control can be effective, as long as you get a few inches of the root when you dig it up. Many herbicides work well on this plant as well, such as Escort XP and Telar XP. A biological control insect is in the final stages of being approved for release, to help slow the spread of this plant.

Always read and understand the label and restrictions on any pesticide you are using.

The label is the law.

