

SMALL BUGLOSS

Anchusa arvensis

Boraginaceae, the borage family

Category: Control

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FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Small bugloss can be a serious problem in cultivated fields by out competing crops for space and nutrients, decreasing crop yields.
- It has prolific seed production, with each plant producing up to 250 seeds that aid in short and long distance dispersal.

Description

- Winter annual growing up to 2 feet tall.
- Leaves are alternate, lance-shaped, and wavy with bristly hairs arising from small bumps.
- Blue, funnel-shaped flowers have distinct curve in whitish floral tubes, and form in clusters at the tip of coiled flower stem.
- Each flower has 4 nutlets with a thickened base.
- Resembles Common bugloss which has linear leaves and hairs without swollen bases, and Vipers bugloss which has floral tubes without a curve.

Introduction and Movement

- Small bugloss is native to southern Europe and was likely introduced to the U.S. as a garden ornamental.
- Inhabits roadsides, disturbed areas, pastures, and cultivated fields.
- Each plant can produce up to 250 seeds, allowing for easy dispersal via wind, water, and human/animal vectors.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify Small bugloss and eradicate infestations on your property.
- When gardening, always research plants before planting and only purchase seeds from licensed nurseries.
- Always remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To: **KNOW WHAT YOU GROW & KNOCK IT OFF!**

Sources

- Nature Gate: <https://www.luontoportti.com/suomi/en/kukkakasvit/small-bugloss>
- Idaho's Noxious Weeds 9th Edition, University of Idaho: <http://www.extension.uidaho.edu/publishing/pdf/BUL/BUL816.pdf>.



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DISTRIBUTION MAP

