



Ada County

Pest of the Month



JANUARY
2013

**A quick guide to identifying and controlling
invasive plants and animals found in the county**

VIPERS BUGLOSS

Vipers Bugloss is a member of the Borage family and is also called Blueweed. It is native to southern Europe but is found in most countries from United States to New Zealand.

Vipers Bugloss is a biennial plant that produces a rosette in its first year and a tall flower stalk in its second year. It grows best in sunny areas such as meadows, overgrazed pastures, poorly drained slopes and roadsides. Generally does not do well in cultivated areas.

The name Viper's Bugloss came about from a perceived resemblance between the seeds and a viper's head, or the spots on the stem like a viper's skin.



Quick Facts



- Alkaloids in plant will cause liver damage if ingested by animals. It is especially toxic to horses and pigs.
- Has a thick, black taproot that spreads by seed.
- Each plant may produce up to 2,800 seeds.
- Grows up to five feet tall.
- The leaves and stems are covered with stiff hairs.
- Bright blue flowers with hot pink-colored stamens bloom June to September.
- In the 14th Century thought to be a useful antidote for snake bite.

See control methods on other side...

How to Control

Control Methods:

• **Chemical** - Spray before bloom with dicamba + 2,4-D, metsulfuron, or glyphosate. Fall application of these products to new rosettes before the killing frost provides good control. A surfactant is recommended to increase the effectiveness of any of the herbicides used. These products not recommended for home landscapes.

Non-Chemical

- Vipers Bugloss cannot withstand regular cultivation.
- Prevent seed production by cutting and destroying flowers. Roots will die out after the second season.
- Plants may be pulled or roots dug out. Take special care to sever the roots below the root crown.
- Mowing is not a good control option because taproots are still viable and regrowth usually occurs.



Note: Chemical control of any weed can be difficult and confusing. If you are not experienced in chemical control or do not understand the product label, you should consult a licensed applicator to assist you. Inappropriate application can kill desirable vegetation, and may violate federal law.



For questions and concerns, please contact:

Ada County Weed, Pest, and Mosquito Abatement
975 E. Pine . Meridian, Idaho . 208-577-4646 . weedandpest@adaweb.net