

*Cynoglossum officinale*

# Houndstongue

Other common names:

beggar's ticks, beggar's lice, dog bur

Boraginaceae, the borage family

Category: CONTAINMENT



## Diagnostic Characteristics

- Biennial or short-lived perennial; grows up to 4 feet tall
- Live plants have a distinctive sweet and musty odor
- Basal rosette leaves are rough and hairy and resemble a hound's tongue
- Upper leaves are lance shaped, hairy, coarse, and alternate on the stem
- Flowers are reddish-purple
- Fruits consist of 4 prickly nutlets

## Background

- Native to Europe; introduced as a seed contaminant
- Inhabits disturbed areas, croplands, rangelands, and forested areas
- Reproduces by seed; hooks on seed aid in dispersal
- **Toxic to livestock; especially horses**

Photo Credit:

J.M. DiTomaso, The Regents of the University of California

# Houndstongue

*Cynoglossum officinale*

