**Cynoglossum officinale**

**Houndstongue**

Other common names: beggar’s ticks, beggar’s lice, dog bur

Boraginaceae, the borage family

Category: CONTAINMENT

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**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

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Photo Credit:
J.M. DiTomaso, The Regents of the University of California
Houndstongue
*Cynoglossum officinale*

Present

- No
- Yes

Map showing the presence of *Cynoglossum officinale* in Idaho's counties.