

# Hound's Tongue

*Cynoglossum officinale*

## Identification Tips

- ◆ biennial or short-lived perennial, up to 1.5 m tall
- ◆ one to several main stems, with more branching near top
- ◆ leaves softly hairy, rough textured, and oblong to lanceolate with smooth margins
- ◆ lower leaves on stalks, but upper leaves clasp the stem
- ◆ flowers reddish-purple, sometimes bluish; small funnel-shaped, often in drooping, one-sided clusters
- ◆ Seeds (burrs) covered with sharp hook-like prickles
- ◆ first-year plant is a rosette of large, soft hairy leaves next to the ground; tall flowering stem produced in second year (or later if conditions are unfavourable in second year)



## Forage Value

G	F	P
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## Bank/Shoreline Protection

E	G	F	P
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## Plant Status

**Invasive**

## Riparian Function & Values

- ◆ Roots will not resprout if cut below ground level.
- ◆ Because of the little hooks covering the seeds, they easily attach to people and animals, spreading quickly to new areas.
- ◆ Poisonous to cattle and horses, especially if consumed dry, such as in hay. Causes liver failure and it can take up to six months for its effects to be seen.
- ◆ Found in both riparian areas and in shady, moist sites in upland areas.

## Riparian Remark

*Leaves resemble a dog's tongue, both in shape and with the rough texture.*

*Two European biocontrol insects were introduced into selected areas of Alberta and British Columbia from 1997-1998. They help control hound's tongue by reducing seed production and killing the first-year rosettes.*