

Non-Native Plant



viper's bugloss

Echium vulgare

Also known as: blue borage

Family Boraginaceae

Origin Asia, Europe

Not a legally declared Pest Plant

General description

Densely bristly annual or biennial herb to 50-90 cm high. Deep taproot. Stems stiff, erect, covered in reddish bristly hairs, with many short branches. Basal rosette leaves to 15 x 5 cm, narrow, stiffly-bristly, harsh to touch. Stem leaves much smaller, alternate, also rough. Flowers funnel-shaped, 5-petalled, 12-18 mm long, pink in bud, becoming vivid blue (rarely remaining pink or white), in tapering spike-like heads, Nov-Jan. Seeds 4-angled, egg-shaped, 2 mm long.

Habitats

Short tussockland, herbfield, bare land, riverbeds, usually in dry, low fertility, inland areas.

Dispersal

Wind, water

Impact on environment

Usually temporary smothering effect in open, disturbed, low-growing plant communities.

Control

Site Management:

Exclude livestock & other disturbance factors.

Recommended approaches:

1. Dig out scattered plants. Mulch.
2. Weed wipe (1g metsulfuron + 20ml penetrant/L) on active growth only.
3. Spot spray (1g metsulfuron/10L) on active growth only.

Caution: when using any herbicide or pesticide PLEASE READ THE LABEL THOROUGHLY to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

