

Blueweed (*Echium vulgare*)

CAUTION/POISONOUS

Description

A biennial, usually, a rosette during the first year of growth and produces a flowering stem during the second year. Branching plant that reaches 75 cm in height. Stems are harshly hairy with a mixture of a few, scattered, long, stiff hairs among dense short hair, the longer hair having swollen reddish or blackish bases visible as small bumps on the stem surface. Rosette leaves are oblong to linear-lanceolate in outline, up to 18 cm long and reaching 3 cm in



width. Rosette leaves narrow to a short petiole. Leaves that occur on the flowering stem are also oblong to linear-lanceolate in outline but do not have petioles. Flowering stem leaves also become progressively smaller up the stem. All leaves have white 'speckles' that give the leaves a dimpled appearance and also have relatively long white hairs. Flowers somewhat resemble



a funnel and also have external hairs. Bright blue to purple in color, approximately 8 to 12 mm long. Flowers are numerous in 1-sided, short, arching branches near the top of the stem. Forming an irregular corolla with the upper lobes longer than the lower ones.

CAUTION: Bristly hairs on this plant cause skin irritation and may be poisonous.

Key Identifiers

- ✓ Deep thick taproot
- ✓ 'Dimpled' appearance of the leaves and harshly rough-hairy throughout.
- ✓ Bright blue to purple flowers with unequally lobed corolla with protruding stamens

Location in Canada

Blueweed is located in every southern Canadian province, BC to Newfoundland.

Resources

<http://www.invasiveplants.ab.ca/Downloads/FS-Blueweed.pdf>

<http://www.weedinfo.ca/weed.php?w=EHIVU>

http://www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/pp/ppack.info?p_psn=101&p_type=all&p_sci=sci

Similar species

Curled Dock (*Rumex crispus*) at rosette stage, may be confused but doesn't have white-speckled and 'dimpled' leaves like blueweed.