



Fact Sheet 98-66

WANTED— Dead, Not Alive!

This outlaw weed is hiding out! Find it. Eradicate it.

Hounds Tongue

Alias: *Cynoglossum officinale*

Hounds tongue is a biennial that was introduced from Europe. This non-native species of hounds tongue is widely distributed across North America and is found in northern California and Nevada, and nearby Oregon. It invades irrigated and dry pastureland and disturbed areas. Prickly nutlets that cling to clothing and animal fur are the main form of dispersal. Hounds tongue is toxic to livestock. Horses that are confined to a small area infested with the weed are particularly susceptible.



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Distinguishing features:

- ◆ The first growing season, it forms a low growing rosette. The stem then grows 1½ to 2 feet tall the second season. The abundant stems are stout, bearing leaves from base to tip, and are simple or branched at maturity.
- ◆ Leaves are tongue-shaped, hence the name, and are attached closely to the stem with the uppermost leaves clasping the stem.
- ◆ The fused petals of the flower are reddish-purple. Seeds are contained in the prickly four-lobed nutlets that cling to fur and clothing.

Take action:

- ◆ Report its location to the land owner, gardener, manager or park ranger.
- ◆ Remove all weed seeds from your clothing, shoes, pets, camping gear, vehicle, and tire treads before moving out of an infested area. Avoid walking on, driving on, or camping in infested areas.
- ◆ Monitor ornamental plantings, pasturelands, stream banks, and wetlands. Carefully remove any seeds and dig up the plant and dispose of in a sealed garbage bag through the trash. Herbicides may also be available to kill this plant.

Your reward:

A cleaner, healthier environment and the satisfaction that you have helped make the difference!

For more information about controlling this and other invasive weeds, contact:

Nevada Cooperative Extension
775-784-1334;

Nevada Division of Agriculture
Bureau of Plant Industry,
775-688-1180; or

Your local Weed District manager or
Conservation District: