

COMMON BUGLOSS (*Anchusa officinalis*) and SMALL BUGLOSS (*Anchusa arvensis*)



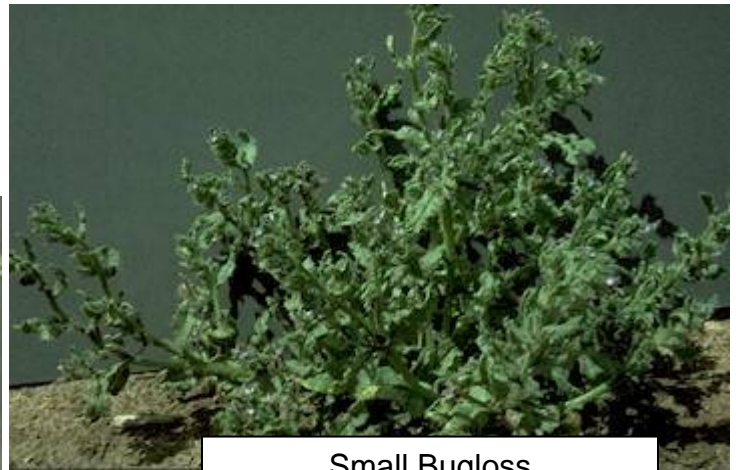
Common Bugloss



Common bugloss is a perennial noxious weed with a deep taproot. This weed spreads by small, nutlet-like seeds. The plants are one to two feet tall at maturity and each plant can have several flowering stalks. The stalks and oblong, slightly pointed leaves of this weed are fleshy, succulent and hairy. The flowers are on the ends of the stalks, blue to purple in color, with white centers. Each flower stem is coiled like a fiddleneck at first. As each flower bud opens the coil gradually straightens out.

Small bugloss is an annual, which reproduces by seed and may germinate in fall or spring. The plants grows 6 to 24 inches tall, has branching erect or sprawling stems. Larger plants may measure 3 feet in diameter. Both leaves and stems appear rough and wrinkled and are covered with bristly hairs that arise from warty bumps. Alternate, stiff wavy lance-shaped leaves grow 1 to 2 inches long, displaying wavy, entire or slightly toothed, margins. Leafy coiled flower stems bear the inconspicuous blue flowers.

Other tarweed-type weeds that resemble small bugloss include fiddleneck tarweed (*Amsinckia*), which has orange-yellow flowers on a coiled flower stem, and madwort catchweed (*Asperugo procumbens*), a viny annual with small blue flowers in leaf axils along the stem and seeds enclosed in prickly-lobed leafy structures.



Small Bugloss

CONTROL

Non-Chemical: Both weeds can be controlled by regular cultivation. Special care must be taken to sever the roots below the crown of common bugloss. Small bugloss seed is long lived and seeds can germinate over a period of months each year. Prevent seed production by cutting and destroying flowers. Mowing is not a good control option because taproots are still viable and re-growth typically occurs.

Herbicides: Spray before bloom with dicamba + 2, 4-D or glyphosate. Fall application of these products to new rosettes (before a killing frost) gives good control. A surfactant is recommended to increase the efficiency of any of the herbicides used.

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