

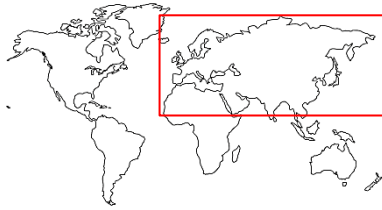
Viper's bugloss

Echium vulgare

VERY INVASIVE – emerging in the Arrowhead

Invasive habitat: prefers sunny areas with well-drained or gravelly soils, especially disturbed sites. Does well along roadsides and in meadows.

Native range: Europe and Asia



Very common in many gardens and along roads in the Arrowhead.



IDENTIFICATION



Growth form: monocarpic perennial. Stems and leaves covered with hairs that have swollen dark bases that make it look spotted. Grows up to 36" tall. Toxic to livestock.



Leaves: First forms a basal rosette whose leaves are simple and 2.5-10" long and 0.5-3" wide.



Flowers: 5 pink or red stamens, 1 of which is noticeably shorter than the other 4. Blooms June-September..



Seeds: one plant can produce anywhere between 150 and 10,000 seeds, depending on environmental conditions. Rough seeds stick to animals and clothing.

CONTROL



Manual: pulling is effective when the taproot is removed. Any remaining taproot will regenerate.



Chemical: metsulfuron, chlorsulfuron, metsulfuron + chlorsulfuron, 2,4-D, 2,4-D + triclopyr



Prescribed fire: there is no specific information on prescribed burning effectiveness.



Cultural: Restoration with native wildflowers and trees will provide competition.



Mechanical: mowing reduces seed production, but stimulates re-sprouting and low-height flowering.