

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Blueweed (*Echium vulgare*)

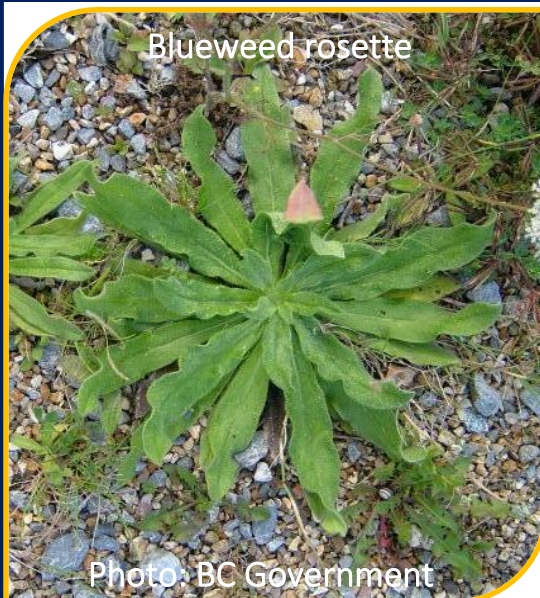
HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

DESCRIPTION

- Biennial or short-lived perennial that is native to Europe and West-Central Asia.
- Mature plants have a long woody taproot and can grow 30-80 cm tall.
- Stems are covered with stiff, bristly hairs that are painful to the touch. Hairs may have dark bases that form conspicuous spots on the stem.
- Leaves form a basal rosette in the first year. Basal leaves are narrow, stalked and 6-25 cm long.
- Leaves are lance-shaped, alternating, and become increasingly smaller towards the stem apex.
- Flowers are blue and funnel-shaped with 5 lobes.
- Each plant will produce one or multiple flowering stalks.



PRIMARY THREATS: Blueweed invades grazing areas and pastures, replacing vegetation. This plant is toxic to cattle and horses and may cause spoilage in baled hay. Skin contact with hairs on the stem can cause dermatitis.



BIOLOGY & SPREAD

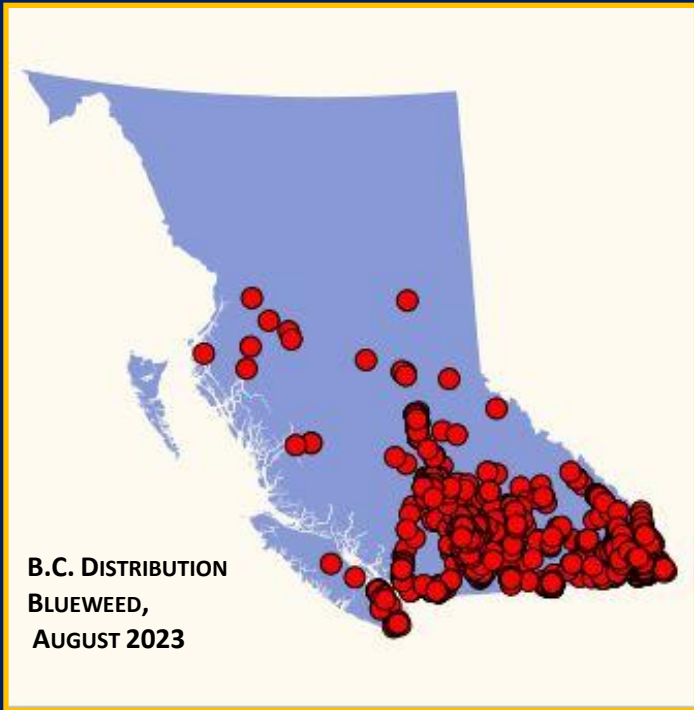
- Plants bloom from June through August.
- Blueweed reproduces by seed.
- Each plant may produce up to 2,800 seeds which remain viable for several years.
- Seeds are typically dropped in the immediate vicinity of the parent plant but can be transported by animals and humans.

For more information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants>



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HABITAT

- Well adapted to dry, shallow, or rocky soils.
- Commonly found on roadsides, ditches, rights-of-way, fence lines, pastures, rangeland, grasslands and other disturbed or waste areas.

DISTRIBUTION & Status

- Blueweed can be found primarily in central and south-central areas of British Columbia.
- Management goal is regional containment and control.



REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

Download the App!



www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **REPORT** new sightings
- **Remove** plant seeds from personal gear and equipment
- **Check** seed mixes
- **Grow** native plant species
- **Minimize** soil disturbance

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