

THE ENEMY: Small bugloss (*Anchusa arvensis*)

Strategy: This is a noxious weed that was brought to us from Europe. This weed is a problem in cultivated fields and near other disturbed sites such as ditch banks and empty lots. It has been found in Bonneville County and Bingham Counties. It has a single taproot, leaves are alternate with wavy margins and the entire plant is covered with bristly hairs. The small blue flowers are funnel shaped with a distinct curve in the whitish tube. The flower produces seeds in 4 nutlets, which overall can produce 250 seeds per plant.

Attack: This nasty weed starts growing in the late fall which gets it a head start over other vegetation that generally grows in the spring. It is quite a good survivor, in fact where it was found has been treated with Roundup and 2,4-D and it grew back. It is toxic to livestock as are most of the plants in the borage family. This plant grows like a small round bush and blocks the sunlight from reaching desired plants and removes valuable nutrients from the soil.

Attack: As this is an annual mechanical control is feasible as long as there is just a few plants. There are no insects that will eat it so biocontrol is not a tool of the job. Herbicides such as Opensight are effective as long as they are applied early in the spring. As this plant is very bristly, leaf coverage is key to controlling it with herbicides. This is best accomplished by using good quality surfactants and larger volumes of water. Please contact your local County Weed Superintendent if you suspect this new invader has encroached on your property, early detection and rapid response are key to keeping this weed from being our next Canada thistle.

