

Vipers bugloss or Blueweed
Echium vulgare
Boraginaceae, the borage family
Category: Control

Background:

- Escaped ornamental
- Native to Canary Islands
- Competitive in rangelands and in non-cropland areas
- Has toxic alkaloids, especially toxic to horses and pigs



Description:

- Winter annual or biennial, grows to about 3 feet tall
- Leaves are alternate, narrow to lance shaped, covered with stiff bristly hairs with swollen bases
- Spike-like cymes that are coiled at the tips
- Flowers are purplish blue, filaments long-exserted
- Nutlets base without thickened rim



Photos from Erickson Weed
Diagnostic Laboratory,
University of Idaho