

Houndstongue, *Cynoglossum officinale*



Identification: One-to four foot biennial. Forms rosette first year with large oblong furry leaves. The second year it produces flowering stems with sessile leaves. Flowers are reddish purple in racemes. The fruit is a barbed nutlet, grouped in fours.

Habitat: Pastures, meadows, roadsides, disturbed areas.

Animals Affected: Horses and cattle.

Toxin Family: Pyrrolizidine alkaloids.

Other: Symptoms also include head pressing, straight-line walking, liver damage (prevents cell reproduction)
Rarely eaten when fresh, but more palatable (and still toxic) in hay.