



*Pentaglottis sempervirens*

WA – Class C Noxious Weed

## Green Alkanet

Evergreen Bugloss, Evergreen Alkanet, Bird's-Eye

**Family:** Boraginaceae

**Origins:** Native to Southwestern Europe. First recorded in Washington in 1992.

**Range:** Found in North America along the West Coast, from British Columbia to California, and the Midwest. Populations are also found in Central, Northern, and Eastern Europe, New Zealand, and Southeastern Australia.

**Habitat:** Commonly grows in disturbed soils, along the edge of forests, and other shaded areas with clay or loamy soil. Green Alkanet tolerates a variety of moisture and pH levels.

**Impact:** Green Alkanet grows and spreads rapidly. This plant is difficult to completely remove once established, can survive in a wide range of temperatures, and is resistant to changes in climate. Green Alkanet can reproduce by seed and vegetatively from root fragments and rhizomes.

**Description:** Green Alkanet is an herbaceous perennial that forms deep, thick roots. The stems are erect with long thin hairs and can grow up to 3 feet tall. Teardrop-shaped basal leaves grow on short stems and can grow up to 16 inches long. Smaller stem leaves are alternately arranged and grow directly from the stem. All leaves are hairy and bright green with shallow teeth along the edge. The flowers are 0.5 inches wide and grow in tight, terminal clusters on a long stalk attached to the stem. Flowers are five-lobed, with rounded bright blue petals and a raised white center. Each flower produces four egg-shaped nutlets that are ridged with knob-like, stalked bases. In Washington, Green Alkanet begins producing leaves in the winter and early spring, before flowering from April to July.

**Common Look-Alikes:** Annual Bugloss, Common Bugloss, Adeline's Hound's Tongue, Wood Forget-Me-Not, Blueweed.

\* Green Alkanet is not known to be toxic.



Image Source: Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board

## Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

*Continued...*

## Non-Herbicide Control

<b>Mechanical</b> (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)	Hand pulling and digging can be effective as long as the entire root system is removed. Prevent seed production by cutting back and removing flowering stems. Removing seed heads can prevent further spread.
<b>Cultural</b>	Maintaining healthy, desirable vegetation can prevent Green Alkanet infestations.
<b>Biological</b>	Biological agents are currently not available for Green Alkanet in Washington State.

## Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

*Published information is limited; the following herbicides are likely to be effective on Green Alkanet. The addition of a surfactant is highly recommended.*

<b>2,4-D</b> (Many Trade Names)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply to actively growing plants before flowering. <b>Remarks:</b> Annual treatments needed to control seedlings; avoid drift to sensitive crops; do not apply near water; use with a non-ionic surfactant.
<b>Dicamba + 2,4-D</b> (Weedmaster, Range Star)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply to actively growing plants before flowering. <b>Remarks:</b> Avoid drift to sensitive crops; for best results, add a surfactant; refer to label for crop rotation restrictions; grass tolerates Dicamba; do not apply near water; use with a non-ionic surfactant.
<b>Glyphosate</b> (Rodeo, Killzall, Roundup)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply to actively growing plants before flowering. <b>Remarks:</b> Spray complete uniform coverage, but not to the point of runoff; dust on plants may reduce effectiveness; Glyphosate is nonselective and may injure or kill any vegetation it contacts; refer to the label for use in aquatic areas.

\* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**