

## **Invasive Species Fact Sheet-Houndstongue**

**Prepare by: Aaron Ide**

**Species Common Name:** Houndstongue

**Species Scientific Name:** *Cynoglossum officinale*

**Native Range and Introduction:** This plant is a native of Europe, and was first introduced in 1893 in contaminated seed. It is spread locally by domestic livestock, wildlife, and multiple human activities.

**Description:** Biennial plant that usually grows to around three feet tall at maturity, after spending the first year in rosette form. Leaves are arranged alternately, wide, rough, and hairy. Flowers are red to purple having four petals. The flowers mature into seed pods that have turn back barbs (Velcro like) that easily become attached to animals and clothing.

**Ecological and Economical Threats:** Houndstongue can form dense patches once the plant becomes established in an area of disturbance, which can negatively affect other native vegetation. It also can lead to loss of rangeland forage and prevent the establishment of preferred grass species. This plant contains alkaloids that can be lethal, which could lead to livestock losses. The velcro like seed pods can become entangled in sheep wool lower the economic value of the wool.

**Regulated Status in Wyoming:** Houndstongue is on the Wyoming State Designated Noxious Weed List. The species is also on the North American Invasive Species Management Association Weed Free Forage Noxious Species List which Wyoming uses for weed free forage standards.

**Distribution in Wyoming:** Found in all counties in Wyoming.

**Control Options:** Biennial species must be controlled before the seed pod has matured.

**Mechanical:** Can be very effective with pulling, chopping, or discing as long as the plant is removed below the soil surface to remove the plants growth point.

**Chemical:** There are a few options for Range/Pasture including Escort (Metsulfuron Methyl), Telar XP, (Chlorosulfuron) or Plateau (Imazapic), if you were treating ROW/Industrial Perspective (Aminocyclopyrachlor+Chlorosulfuron) would be a great option.

**Cultural:** Being a biennial species, increased competition through replanting or grazing modifications could help keep this plant in check.

**Integrated Weed Management:** Teaming an early season herbicide treatment with a late June mechanical treatment should lead to great results, you could even add a fall replanting to increase your desired perennials species to increase competition.

### **Online Resources:**

URL: <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/subject.html?sub=5502>

URL: <http://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/14550>

URL: <https://www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/plants/houndstongue.shtml>

Image 1 URL: <http://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=1459226>

Image 2 URL: <http://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=1354014>

Image 3 URL: <http://www.invasive.org/browse/detail.cfm?imgnum=5399605>



Image 1-Mature Plant



Image 2-Flowers and Seed Pods



Image 3-Basla Rosettes

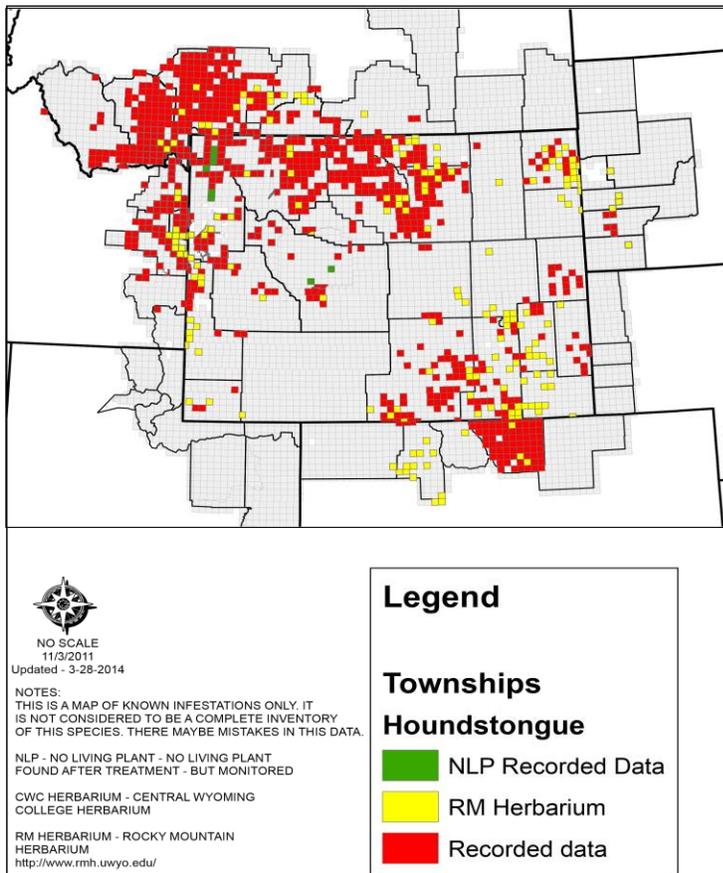


Figure 1-Houndstongue Distribution in Wyoming and Surrounding States  
URL: [http://wyoweed.org/images/Weed\\_Maps/Houndstongue.pdf](http://wyoweed.org/images/Weed_Maps/Houndstongue.pdf)