

Know what you grow!

Mountain Bluet: *Centaurea montana*

General Information: **Zone:** 3 to 8

Mountain Bluet (also known as PERENNIAL CORNFLOWER or PERENNIAL BACHELOR'S BUTTONS) is a perennial herb from central and southern Europe that likes full sun and dry to medium-wet conditions. It is a taproot plant with erect stems, usually simple, narrow-winged, lightly hairy, growing 30-80cm tall. **This plant easily spreads outside of flowerbeds.**

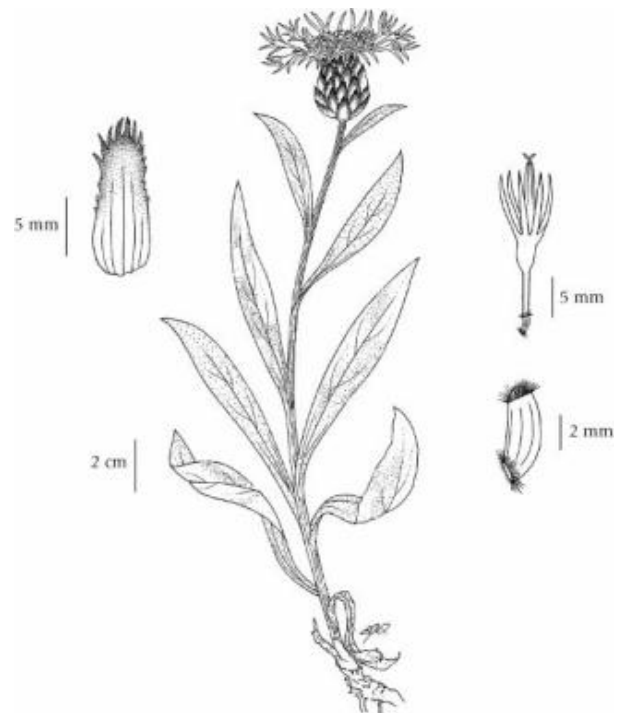


Leaves:

Mostly basal with lower to middle stem leaves broadly lance-like, base of the leaf is continuous with the stem, lightly woolly below.

Flowers:

Flower heads are disc shape, solitary on the stems; disk flowers blue, rarely white. Bloom late spring to early summer (*Illustrated Flora of British Columbia*)



Centaurea montana

HELP STOP THE SPREAD!!

1. Do not purchase or grow invasive plants.
2. Avoid picking plants along roadsides.
3. Encourage others not to grow invasive plants.
4. Deadhead (clip off) flowers to prevent reproduction through seeds.
5. Properly dispose of yard, garden and hanging basket waste.
Do not compost invasive plants with seeds. Dispose at a local landfill.
6. Report sightings of invasive plants.

Within northwest BC there are 38 Mountain Bluet sites totaling 6.1 hectares. There is an increase in Mountain Bluet distribution which is concerning as it displaces native vegetation.



Integrated Pest Management

IPM begins with identification and inventory of invasive plant populations followed by development of well informed control options which may include a number of methods, site treatments and monitoring.

Prevention:

- Avoid unloading, parking or storing of equipment and vehicles in infested areas.
- Remove plant seeds and propagules from personal gear, equipment, vehicles and machinery at designated cleaning stations before leaving infested sites.
- Treat Mountain Bluet before seed set, monitor results and re-treat as necessary to prevent seed dispersal.
- Monitor site annually until it is free of Mountain Bluet for several consecutive years



Mechanical Control:

- Pulling, cutting or mowing is most effective when completed prior to seed set. If the plants have not yet flowered, the removed plants can be left on site, but stems should be twisted, bent or otherwise crimped.
- If treatment is performed while flowers are present on stems, the plants must be bagged and removed from the site to prevent production of viable seeds.
- Wherever possible, the root system should be removed to prevent re-sprouting; however, stem removal and prevention of seed set is most important.
- Follow up treatments will be required as Mountain Bluet has an extensive, long lived seed bank.



Biocontrol:

- There currently are no biocontrol agents available.

Chemical Control:

Herbicide recommendations and use must consider site characteristics and be prescribed based on site goals and objectives. Herbicide labels and other sources of information must be reviewed before selecting and applying herbicides

- Effective herbicides include: picloram, dicamba, 2,4-D, clopyralid, aminopyralid and glyphosate
- Picloram has been determined most effective; however it has residual effects
- Application: The use of a wick or selective spot spraying is recommended to minimize non-target damage.
- Application of herbicides on Crown land must be carried out following a confirmed Pest Management Plan (*Integrated Pest Management Act*) and under the supervision of a certified applicator.

www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/ipmp/index.html



References and Links to Further Information

Northwest Invasive Plant Council: www.nwipc.org

Invasive Plant Council of BC: www.invasiveplantcouncilbc.ca

The Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP): www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/plants/application.htm

A Guide to Weeds in British Columbia: www.weedsbc.ca

E-flora Vascular Plant Atlas: www.geob.ubc.ca/biodiversity/eflora