

Corn gromwell

Lithospermum arvense L. or *Buglossoides arvensis*

Borage Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Leaves are lance shaped and without stalks
- ❑ Plants grow anywhere from 4-24" tall and are usually slender
- ❑ Flowers are white or bluish-white
- ❑ Flowers are funnel shaped and have 5 petals
- ❑ Fruit consists of 4 small nutlets that are grayish brown and pitted
- ❑ Plants are covered with short bristly hairs

Biology and ecology

- An annual plant spreading by seeds
- It is usually the most troublesome in winter grains
- This plant was introduced from Europe and now grows widespread through the U.S.
- Grows along road sides and in fields as well as other disturbed sites

Control

NOTE: This plant is listed for identification purposes only. We do not suggest removal of the plant from any sites where it is not in competition with crops.

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; start monitoring early in the season

Biological - No known biological control in our area

Cultural - Plant competitive grass or other cover crop

Mechanical - Tilling is effective but plants are often too small for mowing to work

Chemical - Corn gromwell is listed as susceptible to many herbicides: refer to the [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) for specific chemical recommendations



Top and middle photos of corn gromwell, ©2004 Ben Legler, WTU Herbarium

Bottom Photo by Bernd Haynold, commons.wikimedia.org



Where found – Scattered throughout Stevens County but usually not a problem except in crops especially winter grains