

# Catchweed

*Asperugo procumbens* L

Borage Family

## Key identifying traits

- ❑ Flowers are small and blue to deep violet
- ❑ Leaves and stems are covered with bristly hairs that cling to clothing and animals
- ❑ Stems are weak so plants tend to bend over
- ❑ Seed pods have a distinctive "clam shape" but are toothed
- ❑ Plants can grow to 1 to 4' long

## Biology and ecology

- An annual reproducing from seeds
- A common weed along roadsides, waste areas, barnyards, and cultivated fields
- This plant is an introduced species from Europe
- Infests many acres in the western United States
- Does not compete well with grass, tends to mature and "dry up" relatively early in the growing season

## Control

*Prevention* - Learn to identify plants; check areas early in the season for new plants

*Biological* - No known biological control

*Cultural* - Planting a competitive crop or grass can help crowd out the weeds

*Mechanical* - Cultivation will help if done before seeds form. Hand pulling is more difficult as the plant tends to break off, however if only a few plants exist they could be successfully dug up

*Chemical* - Difficult due to the hairs but use of a surfactant can help herbicide to penetrate plant, there are several on the market that can give fairly effective control of Catchweed: refer to the [PNW Weed Management Handbook](#) for specific chemical recommendations



**Where found** – Scattered areas all across Stevens County at this time, can be a problem in barnyards, corrals, and pastures