

# Prostrate vervain

*Verbena bracteata*

Vervain Family

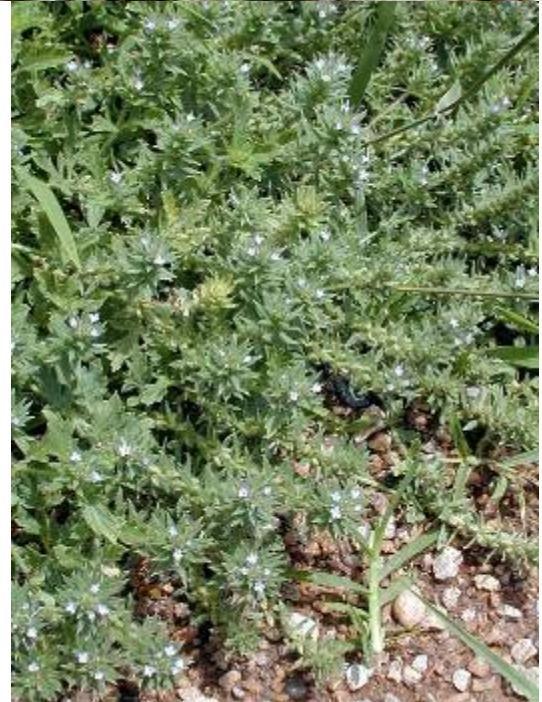
## Key identifying traits

- ❑ Plants grow nearly flat on the ground with branches 6-18" long
- ❑ Leaves are alternate and prickly on the lower side of the midrib
- ❑ Leaves are opposite and divided into 3 primary lobes and these divided into secondary lobes
- ❑ Flowers are pinkish to pale blue in long dense spikes and have long leaf like bracts



## Biology and ecology

- It can be an annual or short lived perennial, spreading by seed only
- Commonly see it growing along roads, driveways and sunny dry areas; also showing up more in pastures- we are seeing increases in the population of this plant over the past few years
- Prefers sunny, dry sites that are sandy, rocky or gravelly
- Prostrate vervain is a native and widely distributed over North America



## Control

*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 but tillage can be a good control

*Mechanical* - Height of the plant is too low for mowing to be an effective option

*Chemical* - the [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) does not have recommendations for this plant but some mixtures containing 2,4-D, MCPA, and Dicamba have vervain on their list of controlled species



All Photos: Mike Haddock,  
<http://www.lib.ksu.edu/wildflower/>

**Where found** – Scattered areas of plants all through Stevens County, with more plants seen along travel corridors in recent years, but not any dense populations known to be here.