

Invasive Plants of Wisconsin



Creeping Bellflower (*Campanula rapunculoides*)

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Herbaceous, creeping perennial. Erect stems are un-branched and form dense clumps 16-40" tall. Stems are purple near the base.

Legal Classification in WI: Restricted

Leaves: 1-3" long, alternate. Lower leaves have long purple petioles and are heart shaped. Upper leaves lack petioles (sessile) and are lance shaped. Leaves are hairy on the lower surface, particularly along midrib, and have a toothed margin.

Flowers: Late spring to fall. Individual flowers ascend along one side of the flowering stem (raceme). Flowers are 0.75-1.25" long, 5 lobed, blue-purple, bell shaped, and slightly nodding.

Fruits & seeds: Round capsule, 0.3" in diameter, release 50-150 seeds.

Roots: Rhizomes up to 6" deep with vertical storage roots. Readily regenerates from perennial tissue (rhizomes and perennial roots).

Similar species: Harebell (*Campanula rotundifolia*; native) is distinguished by flowers borne in clusters, shorter stem (4-15" tall) that are usually bent over. The oval shaped lower leaves generally fall off as the plant matures.

Ecological threat:

- Invades fields, stream banks, woodlots, prairies, oak savannas, road sides and urban areas, especially lawns and flowerbeds.
- Creates dense stands, spreading by seed and rhizome growth.
- Tolerance to many broadleaf herbicides such as 2,4-D.

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CONTROL METHODS:**Non-Chemical control**

Removal – Dig at least 6" deep to locate and remove all rhizomes and perennial roots. If all perennial tissue (roots and rhizomes) is removed, populations can be eliminated. This can be difficult, especially in heavy soils. A pitchfork or other tool can be used to loosen the soil around the plant to make removal easier. If only removing shoots, the frequency and length of period necessary to reduce populations is not known, but likely many removals per year for several years will be necessary to reduce established populations. If flowers present, bag material and dispose of in a landfill or burn to avoid potential for seed spread.

Prescribed burning – Spring burns can kill germinating seedlings and can suppress above ground growth of established plant depending on fire intensity. After the fire, established plants will quickly re-sprout and reinvade areas; this management method is not recommended unless integrated with other techniques. Fire may benefit other species well adapted to this management (e.g. prairie grasses), resulting in improved competition with bellflower. A hand-held propane torch can be effective for treating seedlings.

Chemical control²

Foliar – Apply directly to foliage of plant either by spot application to individual plants or broadcasted across an infested area. Broadcast foliar applications are typically the most cost effective treatment in dense infestations. Use lower rates on smaller plants and less dense populations and higher rates on larger plants and denser populations.

<p>Active Ingredient (A.I.): dicamba</p> <p>Common product name: Banvel</p>	<p>Rate – <i>broadcast</i>: 16 - 64 fl oz/A (0.5 - 2.0 lb a.i./A) <i>spot</i>: Equivalent to broadcast rates.</p> <p>Timing – Flower-bud stage through the fall as long as leaves are green.</p> <p>Caution – Rates > 16oz/A (0.5 lb a.e./A) may cause stunting and discoloration of sensitive grasses, such as smooth brome. Soybeans and grapes are especially sensitive to spray drift.</p>
<p>Active Ingredient (A.I.): glyphosate</p> <p>Common product name: Roundup</p>	<p>Rate – <i>broadcast</i>: 22 - 44 fl oz/A (0.8 - 1.6 lb a.e./A) <i>spot</i>: 1 - 2% (0.05 - 0.09 lb a.e./gal)</p> <p>Timing – Flower-bud stage through the fall as long as leaves are green.</p> <p>Caution – Applications can result in bare ground as glyphosate is not selective. Use aquatically labeled product if potential exists for solution to contact open waters.</p>

² Herbicide information is based on label rates and reports by researchers and land managers. Products known to provide effective control or in common use are included. Those that do not provide sufficient control or lack information for effectiveness on target species have been omitted. References to pesticide products in this publication are for your convenience and not an endorsement of one product over a similar product. You are responsible for using pesticides in accordance with the label directions. *Read the label before any application.*

<p>Active Ingredient (A.I.): picloram</p> <p>Common product name: Tordon</p> <p>Some products containing picloram are restricted use in Wisconsin.</p>	<p>Rate – <i>broadcast</i>: 8 - 32 fl oz/A (0.13 - 0.5 lb a.e./A) <i>spot</i>: Equivalent to broadcast rate.</p> <p>Timing – Flower-bud stage through the fall as long as leaves are green.</p> <p>Caution – Known to leach through soil into ground water under certain conditions. Use of this chemical in areas where soils are permeable, particularly where the water table is shallow, may result in ground water contamination. Persists in soil for up to one year, especially active on legumes. Do not compost treated plants as herbicide can persist through composting process. Overspray or drift to desirable plants should be avoided, as even minute quantities of the spray may cause severe injury.</p>
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This series of fact sheets was created in cooperation with University of Wisconsin-Extension Team Horticulture.

This material is based upon work supported by the Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, under Award No. 2009-45060-06000.

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