



Ymddiriedolaeth Natur
Gogledd Cymru
North Wales
Wildlife Trust



PLANT PROFILE

Purple top

**POTENTIALLY
INVASIVE**

FACTS

ID

**TAKE
ACTION**

TIPS

**MORE
PROFILES**

Species description

Scientific name:

Verbena bonariensis

Other names:

Argentinian vervain

South America vervain

Native to:

South America

Cronfa
Treftadaeth
Heritage
Fund



Mewn Partneriaeth â
Llywodraeth Cymru
In Partnership with
Welsh Government

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Interesting facts

Potential impacts:

Purple top self-seeds freely in gardens and nearby, including into paving joints and pavements.

Habitat:

Gravel gardens, pavements, base of walls and fences, sunny dry sites.

A tall herbaceous perennial. Introduced to Britain by 1732 and first recorded in the wild in 1949.

How it spreads:

Seeds are dispersed by wind.



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Key identification features

Branched clusters of small, lilac-purple flowers.



Tall, narrow stem, coarse to touch, sparsely leafed, and square in shape.



Leaves are green, sparse, opposite, oblong, and serrated.



Erect, branching stems to 2m high.



Seed heads.



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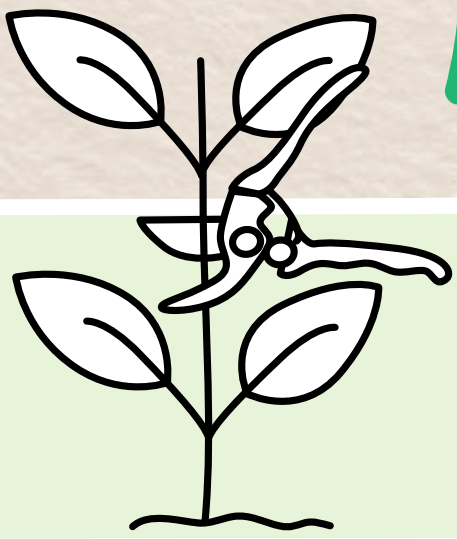
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Take action

Help **stop** the **spread!**

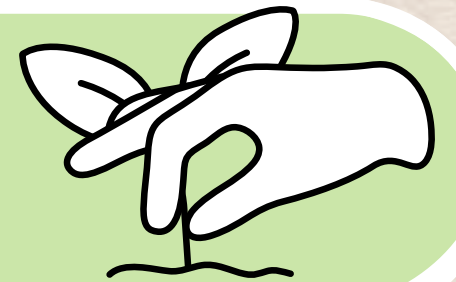


Cut back after flowers have faded to prevent seeds from spreading.

Remove by digging out individual plant, taking care to remove the roots.



Remove seedlings by hand-pulling or digging.



Compost at home or place in council garden waste facilities.

Explore our tips for alternative plant ideas.



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Handy tips



Legislation

Not currently listed in legislation as an invasive species.

Similar species:

Not be confused with the native common valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*).

Alternative plants ideas

Native

Hemp agrimony
(*Eupatorium cannabinum*)

Non-native

Meadow rue (*Thalictrum rochebruneum*)

Cow parsley 'Ravenswing'
(*Anthriscus sylvestris* 'Ravenswing')



Hemp
agrimony

TOP

Photos: NWWT Lisa Toth.

Illustrations: David Setter @doodleplanet and starfishonline.co.uk

Information collated from: GB NNSS, BSBI and RHS.