

# Paterson's Curse

*Echium* spp.



▲ Rosette stage

## Description

- Erect biennial herb 60-90cm high
- Rosettes have multiple egg-shaped leaves up to 30cm long
- Flowers mostly purple, 5 petals fused to a trumpet shape
- Seeds brown to grey, three-sided, wrinkled and pitted
- Stems are covered with stiff hairs

## Flowering Times

- Spring to summer

## Control Measure

- Herbicides – rosette stage preferred
- Biological
- Management – pasture improvement

## Problems

- Highly invasive – up to 30,000 seeds per m<sup>2</sup>
- Seeds spread by water, sticking to wool and fur of animals
- Can cause hayfever and skin irritation in humans
- Toxic to some stock