

Wednesday
October 8th,
2025

Weed Wednesday

Foothills County

Issue #13



Creeping Bellflower – Campanula rapunculoides

Designation- Noxious

Creeping Bellflower was introduced as an ornamental from Europe. It is a perennial that reproduces by seed and creeping rhizome. This species can tolerate a wide variety of conditions, from full sun to shade, and can survive periods of drought. Its preferred habitat includes light sandy to loamy, well drained soils. The creeping root system is aggressive and will travel under fences and sidewalks.

Creeping bellflowers have an erect stem that can grow a meter or more tall. The leaves alternate along the stem with the lower leaves being heart-shaped with a toothed margin and having a petiole attachment. The upper leaves connect directly to the stem and are lance shaped with

hairs on the lower surface.

Native harebells can be found in Foothills County.



Wildflower mixes may contain creeping bellflower seeds. Make sure to check the label for listed species before planting.

The bell-shaped flowers are light purple and emerge from junctions where the upper leaves attach to the stem. Flowering occurs mainly on one side of the stem.

Before blooming, seed production can be prevented through hand-pulling or cutting and bagging flower spikes. However, the plant will re-sprout from its creeping root system.

Removing as much of the root system as possible each year will help reduce the size of the creeping bell flower patch. With consistent effort over multiple years, the plant may be eradicated.

There are no selective herbicides registered for use on creeping bellflowers. Always check product labels to ensure the herbicide is registered for use on the target plant and don't hesitate to reach out to agricultural services for more information.

Creeping bellflowers are sometimes confused with the native harebell, that also have a purple bell-shaped flower. Native harebells are shorter and thinner in the stem and have smaller flowers. The leaves of harebells are small and round at the base as you move up the stem, they become narrow and elongated.

If you would like more information, please contact Kathleen at Kathleen.mchugh@foothillscountyab.ca or at 403-603-5409.

References- [N_FS-CreepingBellflower.pdf](#)