

CREeping BELLFLOWER

WHAT DO THEY LOOK LIKE?

- Leaves have different shapes - some heart-shaped with toothed edges and others much longer.
- Multiple pretty purple flowers grow on a long upright stem, dangling from it like bells.

IS THIS PERENNIAL A PROBLEM?

- **YES.** The leaves, flowers and tubers are edible. The flowers are pretty. **BUT** they will **TAKE OVER** garden beds and lawns.

HOW DO THEY GROW?

- Have thin roots, but below the roots is a system of thick underground **STORAGE TUBERS**; new plants can grow from tubers or pieces of roots/tubers.
- Send out roots sideways to create more plants - spread into dense mats that crowd out other plants.
- A single plant can produce **THOUSANDS** of seeds!
- Can grow in **WET** or **DRY** soil and in **SUN** or **SHADE**.



*campanula
rapunculoides*

HOW TO CONTROL CREEPING BELLFLOWER?

- **New Plants** can be successfully removed - make sure to get **ALL** the roots!
- **Established** plants can be managed or killed:
 - To manage, remove **NEW LEAVES** and **FLOWERS** as soon as they appear. Plant dense groundcovers to compete with the bellflower; cover seeds with mulch.
 - To kill, dig out entire bed (get all the roots). Replace with fresh soil and wash the roots of plants you return to the garden. Remove regrowth from pieces of stray roots. **OR** cover with cardboard and thick mulch (it can take several years to kill it this way).

FACTS...

- Considered an invasive weed in Alberta
- Native species of campanula can be found in the wild areas surrounding Kamloops - look for purple bell-shaped flowers.
- If you like how it looks, plant other, non-aggressive species of campanula such as *campanula persicifolia* (peach-leaved bellflower) or *campanula carpatica*.

Sources: Alberta Invasive Species Council. *Creeping Bellflower*. abinvasives.ca
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs. *Ontario Weeds: Creeping Bellflower*.
Royer, F. and Dickinson, R. *Weeds of Canada and the Northern United States*. 1999.

Image: Robertson, Gordon E. Wiki Commons.