

Hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis tetrahit*)

Originally from Europe and northwestern Asia, Hemp-nettle or Common Hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis tetrahit*) is widely distributed across Canada. It is found in disturbed sites, including fields, pastures and non-agricultural sites but, is most common in the moister agricultural areas of the grain belt.

Biology: The seedling cotyledons are round to orbicular to oval in shape, with entire margins. The cotyledons are hairless with distinctively notched (Figure 1).

Mature plants are 30 to 75 cm in height. An annual reproducing only by seed. The true leaves are in opposite pairs, ovate-shaped with rounded leaf bases. The leaf margins coarsely toothed except at the plant base and the leaves are hairy with prominent veins. The stems are squarish, have stiff bristly hairs and the stems are also swollen at or just below the leaf joints.

The flowers are irregular in colour from, white to pink to purple and often variegated. Flower petals are two lipped. The plant has a taproot.



Figure 2. Seedling view underside (left) and top view (right)

Herbicide Resistance: Herbicide resistance has been confirmed in Manitoba to the Group 2 herbicides and in Alberta to both the Group 2 and to Group 4 herbicides including dicamba, fluroxpyr and MCPA.

Problems and Issues: Hemp-nettle is a pioneer species that takes advantage of any disturbed sites or open space whether it is in a field or along a roadside. Hemp-nettle commonly forms dense patches.

Keys for Identification: Hemp-nettle resembles American dragon head but with dragonhead the cotyledon has much larger rounded lobes at the base. Hemp-nettle leaves are toothed as opposed to scalloped or more rounded leaves as with American dragon.

As a member of the family Lamiaceae or Mints, a key characteristic of the family is the square stem. Hemp-nettle should be easily recognized by the stem coupled with the distinctive notch on the cotyledon and the true leaves.



Figure 1. Cotyledon shape orbicular to oval with distinctive notch at tip