

Creeping Bellflower (*Campanula rapunculoides*)

Description

Rhizomatous perennial that can grow to 1 m. The usually unbranched stems are often reddish purple below, either hairy or smooth. Leaves are alternate, 3-7 cm long. Lower leaves are long-stalked and heart-shaped with coarsely toothed margins. Upper leaves are sessile and lance-shaped with some hairs on the lower surface. Flowers are light purple to blue and borne in the axils of the upper leaves flower stalks. Inflorescence is frequently curved, giving an attractive 1-sided appearance. Flowers are composed of 5 united sepals and 5 united petals. Seedpods formed below the calyx and corolla, somewhat spherical containing many very fine seeds.

Key Identifiers

- ✓ Very persistent, widely spreading, fleshy, whitish underground rhizomes and thickened storage tubers
- ✓ Many heart-shaped, irregular toothed leaves
- ✓ Bell-shaped blue/purple flowers

Location in Canada

British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, P.E.I. and Newfoundland all have reports.

Resources

<https://www.invasiveplants.ab.ca/Downloads/FS-CreepingBellflower.pdf>

<http://www.weedinfo.ca/weed.php?w=CMFRA>

<http://www.labunix.ugam.ca/~fg/MyFlora/Campanulaceae/Campanula/Rapunculoides/rapunculoides.e.shtml>

Similar species

Bluebell/Harebell *Campanula rotundifolia* has linear leaves, less than 1 cm wide, along its stems and its bell-shaped flowers are smaller in size (usually less than 2 cm in length).

