

## TRAIL WEEDS on northern Utah trails – houndstongue and burdock

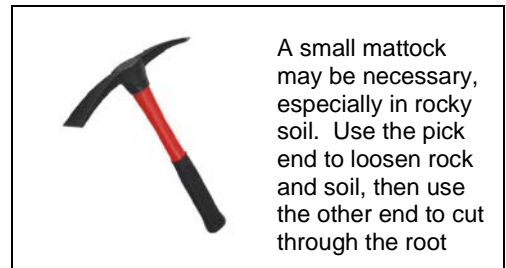
Trail weeds are spread by people and their animals. These annoying plants can greatly reduce the trail user's enjoyment and they crowd out native plants, but they can be controlled. Houndstongue and burdock (below) are of special concern on area trails.

### Do not allow houndstongue and burdock to reproduce!

- Root out blooming (second-year) plants before they go to seed.
- Learn to recognize young plants and root them out in their first year.

### Do not spread houndstongue and burdock!

- Remove weeds along trails and keep animals and people away from infested areas.
- Do not drop seeds on the trail after picking them from clothing and fur.



## Houndstongue *Cynoglossum officinale*

A native of Europe. Because of the bur-like seed, it spreads widely along trails as a passenger on clothing or animal fur. It is toxic to livestock. Houndstongue is a one to four-foot tall biennial. Basal leaves are about three inches wide with a hairy surface. Small reddish purple flowers form in the upper portions of the stems. Each flower produces four green bur-like fruits that turn brown as they mature. Bloom is in early summer.



## Common Burdock *Arctium minus*

A native of Europe. Burs are disseminated when they attach to clothing and animal hair. As a biennial, common burdock produces a large rosette the first year which can be two to three feet across. A multi-branched stem grows three to ten feet tall the second year. Pink to purple flowers are borne in bur-like structures. Blooms in mid-summer.

