

Purple top *Verbena spp.*

(Non Restricted Invasive Weed)



Purple top tends to be a nuisance weed, growing in waste areas, disturbed sites and in revegetation areas.

Purple top is an invasive plant which can disrupt native flora communities and ecosystems.

Description

There are a number of different species of *Verbenas* which are commonly called purple top. They are all annual upright herbs, with square stems and coarse textured leaves and stems. They have small purple flowers bunched together into spikes at the top of the stems.

The most common is *Verbena bonariensis* (purple top) – pictured top left, which grows to about 1m and has thick finger-like purple flower spikes.



Common verbena (*Verbena litoralis*) – pictured top right – also grows to 1m, but has thinner flower spikes of smaller blue to purple flowers.

Management

The most effective management approach for reducing purple top problems is to maintain a vigorous and strong pasture. Also, keeping soil disturbance to a minimum will help prevent purple top and a range of other pest plants.

Seedlings and smaller plants can be hand pulled, bagged and disposed of by composting or at an appropriate waste management facility.

If you would like further information on weeds look at the A–Z Listing of Weeds at [Queensland Government Website](http://www.qld.gov.au/land/management/weeds/).