

# WEED OF THE WEEK- COMMON BURDOCK

## Identification

Common Burdock can be found in disturbed areas. It has a Biennial lifecycle with growth of basal leaves in the first year and flowers in the second. It is a concern because the seed pods can stick to clothing and animals and be spread.

- Flower** Clusters of purple-pink flowers, flowers have hooked bracts (similar to Velcro) which are slightly woolly.
- Leaves** Large, heart shaped, woolly underneath, reduced in size upwards, alternately arranged on the stem.
- Stem** 1-3m tall, stems are thick and hollow, branched, reddish tinge, may be grooved or angular.
- Root** Taproot, large and fleshy.
- Seed** Large seed pods with hooks that attach themselves to clothing and fur. A mature plant can produce up to 18,000 seeds which are viable for up to 3 years.
- Control** Control with herbicide or by hand pulling in rosette stage (first years growth) before bolting and flowering.

