



## Friends of Venus Bay Peninsula Inc

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### Plant of the month: Australian Hound's-tongue *Cynoglossum australe*



Australian Hound's-tongue *Cynoglossum australe* is a coarsely hairy perennial herb with a basal rosette of wavy, lanceolate to oblong leaves to 20 cm long and sessile stem leaves that decrease in size up the stem. Tiny blue to white flowers occur in spikes on long forked stems from September to February. The prickly fruit is in four ovate segments that are easily transferred to animal fur or clothing. The species is locally endangered in the Melbourne area, although common at Venus Bay, often occurring on disturbed sites, and is found in a diverse range of habitats in all Australian States except Queensland.

Australian Hound's-tongue grows in well-drained soils in full or part sun and can tolerate lime. Propagation is from seed.

The genus *Cynoglossum* is in the Boraginaceae or forget-me-not family. The name is from the Greek *kynos*, dog and *glossa*, tongue and refers to the raspy texture of the leaves. The specific name *australe* means southern.

Photo: Lorraine Norden. For more information visit

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