



# Common Bugle *Ajuga reptans* L.

**Common Names:** common bugle, creeping bugleweed, carpet weed, carpet bugleweed

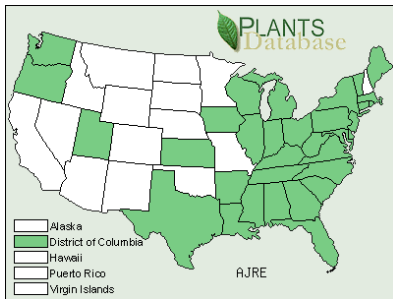
**Native Origin:** Europe and Asia

**Description:** An erect herbaceous plant in the mint family (*Lamiaceae*) growing up to 12 inches in height when in flower in mid-Spring, but 2 to 4 inch tall in Summer, Autumn, and Winter. The stems are 4-angled and densely pilose (covered with fine hair) above and less below. Leaves are approximately 2 ½ inches long and 1 ½ inches broad, opposite, toothed, oblong to obovate and glabrous or sparsely pubescent. Leaves and stems are green to deep purple in color. Whorls of 4 flowers are arranged in terminal spikes, and pollinated by bees, butterflies and moths. Flowers bloom from April to July producing small blue-purple, tubular blossoms and small brown 1-seeded nutlets. It reproduces by repent stems (leafy runners) and seeds.



**Habitat:** This semi-evergreen groundcover is found invading lawns, roadsides, fields, meadows, and woodlands with partial sun to full shade. Plants prefer moist, well-drained soils of average fertility, but can adapt to poor soils and high temperatures.

**Distribution:** This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in MD, TN, and VA.



**Ecological Impacts:** It is a slowly invasive prostrate groundcover that forms mats. It invades beyond its originally intended boundaries by sending out creeping, rooting stems that moving into adjacent areas.

## Control and Management:



**Common bugle (*Ajuga reptans* L.)**  
thick mat of groundcover

- **Manual-** Cut, shear or weed-eat flowering stalks to prevent seed dispersal. Dig up runners and/or shallow roots twice a year.
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or triclopyr. Follow label and state requirements.

**References:** [www.forestimages.org](http://www.forestimages.org), <http://plants.usda.gov>, [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/a.htm](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/list/a.htm), [www.missouriplants.com/Blueopp/Ajuga\\_reptans\\_page.html](http://www.missouriplants.com/Blueopp/Ajuga_reptans_page.html), [www.hcs.ohio-state.edu/plantlist/description/aj\\_ptans.html](http://www.hcs.ohio-state.edu/plantlist/description/aj_ptans.html), [www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr\\_html?Ajuga+reptans&CAN=COMIND](http://www.ibiblio.org/pfaf/cgi-bin/arr_html?Ajuga+reptans&CAN=COMIND), <http://wisplants.uwsp.edu/scripts/detail.asp?SpCode=AJUREP>