

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flower clusters. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, near Nelligen west of Batemans Bay



Flowering stem. Photographer Don Wood, Nadgee Nature Reserve south of Eden

Common name

Purpletop

Family

Verbenaceae

Where found

Woodland, grassy areas, disturbed sites, gardens, crops, orchards, roadsides, and near streams. Widespread. No longer considered to occur in the ACT. Previous records in the ACT were actually *Verbena incompta*.

Notes

Introduced perennial herb to 2 m high. Stems conspicuously 4-angled in cross section, surface slightly rough. Leaves opposite each other, 4–22 cm long, 6–70 mm wide, covered with coarse lines or furrows, rough and slightly hairy above, **tomentose** below; tips pointed, margins toothed to **incised**, bases somewhat **cordate** and partly stem clasping. Flowers blue, dark violet-purple or lavender-pink, tubular, the tube 6–7 mm long, with 5 five **spreading** lobes each about 2 mm long. Flower tubes about twice as long as the **calyx**. Calyx 5-toothed. **Bracts**, calyx and flower stalks distinctly **glandular**. Flowers densely clustered at the tops of the stems, with long branches ending in a dense **spike**. Flowers October to March.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Verbena~bonariensis> (accessed 28 January, 2021)

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