

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



Flowering stems. Photographer Michael Mulvaney, Mt Mugga Mugga, Canberra, ACT



Flower heads. Photographer Christine, Canberra, ACT



Plant. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Mt Stromlo, ACT

Common name

Purpletop

Family

Verbenaceae

Where found

Woodland, grassy areas, waste lands, cultivated areas and roadsides. Widespread.

Notes

Introduced perennial herb to 2 m high. Stems conspicuously 4-angled in cross section, with prominent long hairs. Leaves opposite each other, 4–15 cm long, 6–30 mm wide, covered with coarse lines or furrows, upper surface rough and more or less hairy with short hairs, lower surface with longer hairs, tips pointed, margins coarsely and irregularly toothed to **incised, entire** towards the base, bases partly stem clasping. Flowers blue or mauve to reddish purple, 2.5–3.5 mm long, tubular, the tube about 2.5 mm long, with 5 lobes. Flower tubes only slightly longer than the **calyx**. Calyx 5-toothed. **Bracts**, calyx and flower stalks only occasionally with a few stalked **glands**. Flowers in loose elongated many-flowered **spike**-like clusters. Flowers mainly October–January.

Included in *Verbena bonariensis* var. *bonariensis* in Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Verbena-incompta> (accessed 10 February, 2021)

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