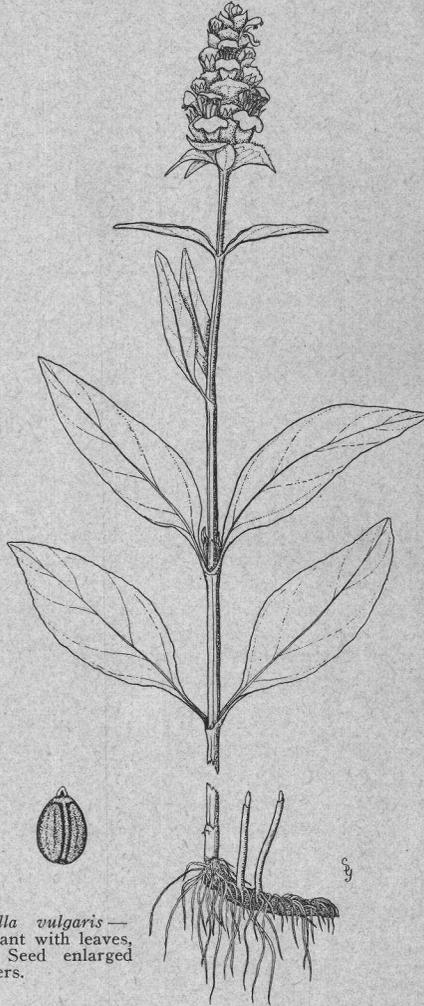


Heal-all

LAWRENCE JENKINS

E. R. JACKMAN



HEAL-ALL — *Prunella vulgaris* —
Showing the entire plant with leaves,
flowers, and seed. Seed enlarged
5 diameters.

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Heal-all

(*Prunella vulgaris*)

By LAWRENCE JENKINS and E. R. JACKMAN*

Illustrations by Cathrine Davis Young

Other common name: Self-heal.

Heal-all is commonly found in nearly all sections of the state in fields, lawns, yards, open woods, old pastures, and waste places. When the stalks are cut off, the plant tends to stool. It sometimes grows to a height of a foot, but in a pasture it may head and produce seed when not more than 3 inches high. Sometimes the stems droop onto the ground. When this type of growth takes place, roots form at the stem joints and produce new plants. Reproduction is also from seed and short rootstocks.

Like other members of the mint family, this weed has square, grooved stems, though the basal portions tend to become cylindrical. Flowers are various shades of purple—some very dark, while others are almost white. They are produced in a cluster at the tip of the stem and in groups of three on short stems from the axils of the leaves, and resemble the flower clusters of other mints. Leaves are slightly toothed to smooth along the margins, the lower ones attached to the stalk by a long stem. Flowers bloom progressively up the spike so that the lower blossoms may be ripe while flowers are still open at the tip. The seed is about the same size as that of red clover. It is slightly triangular, flattened, and dark brown with indistinct vertical lines. The base tapers down to a white point where attached.

Control. This weed can be controlled quite easily by cultivation if growing on land where that is possible. Small patches can be dug out or treated with chemicals. The Oregon Experiment Station has obtained good control of heal-all in lawns by spraying it with a mixture of Sinox and ammonium sulphate. Two-thirds pound of Sinox should be mixed with 1 gallon of water. Two pounds of ammonium sulphate dissolved in $1\frac{1}{2}$ gallons of water are added to the Sinox. This makes enough spray to cover 1 square rod. The chemicals must be completely dissolved and stirred vigorously without delay when mixed together. The entire area should be sprayed evenly. Oregon Experiment Station Circular of Information No. 240 describes this method. Badly infested fields should be plowed and the land seeded to a cultivated crop for a year or two. Since this weed is shallow-rooted, the most desirable time to treat with chlorates is in the summer if a spray is used; or in the spring shortly before the last spring rains occur if the chemical is applied dry. One to $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds of sodium chlorate to the square rod should be sufficient, if the entire area is covered evenly and treatment is made at the right time. Other methods of controlling perennial weeds are discussed in Extension Bulletin 510.

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† See Extension Bulletin 566 on chickweed.

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