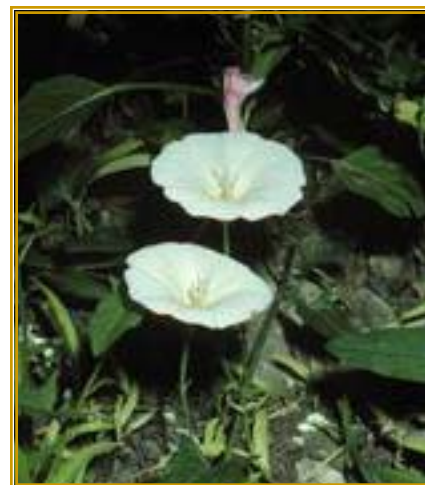


FIELD BINDWEED

WHAT IS FIELD BINDWEED?

Field bindweed, a native plant of Asia, can be found June through September on both cultivated and uncultivated land. It is most common in small grain fields, waste places, gardens, and roadsides. Field Bindweed is usually found creeping along the ground but may climb fences or other plants. It is on the noxious weed list for Minnesota.



ECOLOGICAL THREAT

Field bindweed effects the area by quickly spreading and strangling surrounding plants and objects. The weed intertwines and topples native species. It competes with other species for sunlight, moisture and nutrients. It poses threats to restoration efforts and riparian corridors by choking out grasses and forbs. It can decrease habitat biodiversity. It is one of the most serious weeds of agricultural fields in temperate regions of the world.



CONTROL METHODS

The best control of field bindweed is obtained with a combination of cultivation, selective herbicides, and competitive crops.

Mechanical: Intensive cultivation controls newly emerged seedlings, may kill young field bindweed infestations, and contributes to control of established stands. Timely cultivations deplete the root reserves of established plants and stimulate dormant seeds to germinate.

Chemical: Long-term control of field bindweed from herbicides depends on movement of a sufficient amount of herbicide through the root system to kill the roots and root buds. This requires use of systemic (movement throughout the plant) herbicides. Examples of systemic herbicides include 4-D, dicamba (Banvel/Clarity), picloram (Tordon) and glyphosate (Roundup or equivalent). Contact herbicides such as paraquat kill only the tissue directly contacted by the herbicide, which results in only short-term control of topgrowth.

FLOWER

Field bindweed flowers are 1 to 2 inches across and are typically white or pale pink and have a funnel shape. These flowers may be in groups of 2 to 4 with each flower having 5 petals fused together with a yellow center. A flower lasts only 1 day, opening on sunny mornings and closing in the afternoon.

LEAVES

Field bindweed leaves are 1 to 2 inches long and up to 1 inch across with smooth edges, alternately attached up the stem. Leaves are typically arrowhead-shaped, but are variable. This vine lacks tendrils, so the stem wraps around other plants for support.

ROOTS

Field bindweed produces a long taproot that generates many side roots. These side roots produce buds that can develop into new plants.

SEEDS

Bindweed plants also produce many seeds that, with their tough seed coats, can remain viable in the soil for years. To control established bindweed in field crops, you must deplete the roots' energy resources by repeatedly destroying the top growth.