War on Weeds - Weeds are Everybody's Problem

THE ISSUE: Field bindweed

Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis* L.), also known as Morning Glory, is a perennial vine native to Eurasia. It was likely introduced to the U.S. as a seed contaminant and has since become an aggressive invader of roadsides, gardens, lawns, waste areas, pastures, cultivated fields and other disturbed environments. This resilient plant forms dense vegetation that crowds out desirable species. Its ability to produce abundant seeds and its deep, hardy root system make it particularly difficult to control.



Photo courtesy of Howard F. Schwartz, Colorado State University, Bugwood.org

Field bindweed grows vines that can reach up to 6 feet long that can climb up other plants. Its leaves are arrowhead shaped and 1/2- 2 inches in length. Mature leaves (ones closer to the roots) are larger than those found towards the tips of stems. Field bindweed has an impressive root system. Roots can reach up to 9 feet deep, but most roots spread out laterally closer to the soil surface. Flowers are white to pink in color and are funnel shaped. A single plant usually produces about 550 seeds per year. Seeds can remain viable for up to 50 years.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Options:

- Prevention Learn to identify this plant. Never transport unknown plant material. Plant clean seed! If field bindweed appears, control it before it produces seed.
- Mechanical Hand digging can be effective during the seedling stage. Make sure to remove as much of the root system as possible. If tillage is used it must be repeated often.
- Cultural Plant competitive beneficial vegetation. Use management practices that will benefit desirable vegetation. In planting beds, the use of a landscape fabric with a layer of mulch or rock can help to control field bindweed.
- Chemical There are a number of chemical control options available. For more information visit <u>https://pnwhandbooks.org/weed</u>. Then search "bindweed". **Always read and follow herbicide label directions!**

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