

Field Bindweed

Convolvulus arvensis



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Plant Family: Sunflower (Asteraceae)

Other Names: Creeping Jenny, Morning Glory

Similar Species: Hedge bindweed, wild buckwheat

Weed Classification: Priority 2B

Native to: Europe, Asia, and Northern Africa

Is This Weed Toxic? Not known to be

Identification

Blossoms are fused five-petal, trumpet-shaped flowers that are seen in white, pink or white-and-pink variations. Flowers open in the morning and only last one day, closing at night and under overcast skies. Leaves are recognizably arrow-shaped and the vine is a low creeping tendril that likes to climb objects, creating a dense tangled mat that can reach up to 9 feet long. Roots can reach as far as 20 feet in width and 30 feet in depth. This plant is every farmer's nightmare because seeds can remain viable for over 20 years and once established can greatly lower crop and forage yields as well as host a multitude of plant viruses that affect a variety of crops.

Treatment

Treatment is not easy when it comes to field bindweed and will take a combination of efforts to control seed production, reduction of the stored carbs in the root system, provide competition for light from other plants, and control top growth. PREVENTION is your best policy. Buy weed free seed and hay! Avoid purchasing topsoil that may contain weed contaminants. If seedlings start to appear, treat immediately to prevent them from becoming much more costly and time consuming to control. Destroying new plants in the first month is crucial because after that point the plant begins to develop perennial buds, reducing the likelihood of successful control.

Plowing/hoeing can reduce root reserves if repeated every 2 – 3 weeks or more if necessary.

Hand-pulling is ineffective since the roots are massively expansive and break very close to the surface when pulled.

Landscaping with plastics and fabric with a thick mulching medium can be effective if no light is allowed to reach the soil and the plant. Some fabrics are prone to developing holes and bindweed will grow right through them if the opportunity is presented. It will take 3 to 5 years if not longer to kill bindweed with light exclusion. Once the fabric is removed new plants may germinate; monitor the site diligently after fabric removal.

Herbicides should be applied after the emergence of new shoots in the spring or fall. Always aim to thoroughly soak the leaves when applying, although remember to consult the specific herbicide label for any additional tips provided for bindweed.

Burning and mowing are ineffective.

"Smith, Jennifer." "Know State's Most Invasive Weeds." *LJWorld.com*. Horticulture Extension for K-State Research and Douglas County Extension, 01 May 2010. Web. 24 Jan. 2017.

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Wright, S.D. "How to Manage Pests." *Field Bindweed Management Guidelines--UC IPM*. UCIMP, n.d. Web. 24 Jan. 2017.



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