



# COMMON CHICKWEED

**BOTANICAL NAME:** *Stellaria media*

**WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?** It is an annual that tolerates cold weather so well that it can survive winter in mild climates. A member of the Pink or Carnation family (*Caryophyllaceae*), it is related to some of our prettiest wildflowers. It grows erect to prostrate and sometimes is matlike.

**WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW?** Common chickweed grows in gardens, fields, new (unestablished) lawns, flower beds, ornamental plantings, and other areas with rich soils. It grows best in cool, moist locations.

**WHEN DOES IT BLOOM?** Flowers usually develop from February to September, but under favorable conditions they can occur year-round. The small, yet showy, flowers have what appear to be 10 petals, but are really five deeply-cut white petals.

**HOW DOES IT SPREAD?** Common chickweed reproduces mostly from seed, but sometimes it reproduces by creeping stems that root from stem joints (nodes). It grows vigorously in cool weather, producing seeds throughout the winter in mild regions.

**HOW DO I CONTROL IT?** Common chickweed should be controlled before it flowers. Regular monitoring and removal of plants from the site will prevent seeds from developing and accumulating in the soil. It is important not to only remove the plants from the ground but also remove them from the site, as it can re-root from stem nodes in moist areas.

## **NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL:**

- Maintaining a healthy planting or turf area to provide competition will prevent weed establishment.
- Hand-pull to eliminate weeds.
- Apply organic mulches in a layer from two to several inches thick.
- Maintain a thick vigorous lawn, deep infrequent irrigation also discourages infestations.

## **CHEMICAL CONTROL:**

- There are a number of good products on the market to help control chickweed. Be certain you read all the label instructions and follow them carefully.



Want more information? Contact:

**Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control**

**10905 N. Ramsey Road**

**Hayden, ID 83835**

**208-446-1290 / TTY 208-446-2145**

**kcnoxiousweeds@kcgov.us or [www.kcweeds.com](http://www.kcweeds.com)**

*Kootenai County does not discriminate against individuals or groups on the basis of disability in the admission or access to, or treatment in, its public meetings, programs, or activities. Requests for assistance or accommodations can be arranged by contacting the Noxious Weed Control Department at (208) 446-1290 or County Administration Office TTY (208) 446-2145 with 3 days advance notice.*