

FIELD BINDWEED

(*Convolvulus arvensis*)



WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? A stubborn, low-growing perennial vine that has stems that twine and spread to form a mat on the ground or can climb up to 7 feet blocking sunlight from other plants as it grows. Leaf size and shape varies but generally the leaves are one to two inches long, smooth, and shaped like an arrowhead. The

petunia-like flowers and flower petals can be white to pale pink

WHERE DOES IT GROW? Brought in from Europe, field bindweed can be found growing anywhere there is strong sunlight and good moisture conditions. It will grow up and over anything in its path.



WHEN DOES IT BLOOM? Flowering occurs from late June until frost in the fall.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD? New plants can begin from seed or from the creeping root system. Buds located along the root can send up new shoots, or establish a new patch when roots are cut and moved. Roots of field bindweed may extend 20 to 30 feet out and up to 20 feet deep and have the ability to store food for 2 to 3 years.

HOW DO I CONTROL IT? Field bindweed is very difficult to kill because it grows so low and because of its deep, widespread root system. It is best to eliminate young bindweed plants before they have a chance to develop their extensive root system. It must be managed for several years to bring it under control.

Non-Chemical Control:

- A thick cover of grasses will not allow bindweed to get started. The use of fertilizer and weed free seed is highly recommended.
- Because of its low growth habit, bindweed is generally unaffected by mowing.
- Hogs may eat the tops of field bindweed, and root deeply to eat the rootstalk, but too much of the plant will make them ill. Sheep will graze this plant if nothing else is available. Once grazing stops, the bindweed usually returns.
- Digging or tilling can be started 2 weeks after the plant comes up in the spring and continuing every 2 weeks during the growing season over a period of 2 to 3 years.
- There are no biological control insects for bindweed being used in North Idaho at this time.

Chemical Control:

- The best time to spray bindweed is just at or during first flowering. Check with your Noxious Weed Control Office for herbicide recommendations.

Kootenai County Noxious Weed Control
10905 N. Ramsey Road, Hayden, ID 83835
208-446-1290 / TTY 208-446-2145
kcnoxioussweeds@kcgov.us or 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. Developed by L. Ely 073106