



MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED

BOTANICAL NAME: *Cerastium fontanum* ssp. *vulgare*

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? It is a prostrate perennial broadleaf plant that can behave like a biennial or annual in disturbed places. Seedlings grow erect for 2 or 3 inches, then the stem branches, and the plant begins its tufted, creeping growth

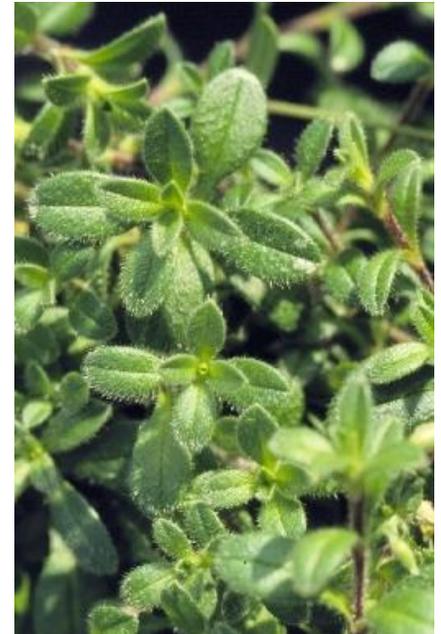
habit. Mouse-ear chickweed leaves are dark green, elongated, and covered with soft hairs.

WHERE DOES IT LIKE TO GROW? It is not generally a weed of cultivated crops, because it does not survive tillage. It is common on cultivated land that has been abandoned, as well as in woods, pastures, hay fields, and lawns. Mouse-ear chickweed often persists on bareground and in sidewalk cracks.

WHEN DOES IT BLOOM? Flowers usually develop from March to August. The small inconspicuous flowers have what appear to be 10 petals, but are really five deeply divided white petals.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD? Mouse-ear chickweed is a perennial herb that reproduces by seeds and spreads by rooting along its creeping stems. Seed matures very quickly and, since the plant blooms from spring until fall, this weed can spread extensively in a short time.

HOW DO I CONTROL IT? Maintaining a healthy grass sod is the best way to prevent mouse-ear chickweed from invading turf. Close mowing does not kill it but can help prevent seed production. Small patches may easily be hoed out since the root system is shallow and weak.



NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL:

- Maintaining a healthy planting or turf area to provide competition will prevent weed establishment.
- Hoe small patches and reseed.

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

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.