

Field Bindweed (Wild Morning Glory) Fact Sheet

Convolvulus arvensis

Convolvulaceae Family



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Center and right photos by Steve Dewey, Utah State University, Bugwood.org



Distinguishing Features:

- ❶ **Flowers:** Trumpet-shaped flowers, light pink to white.
- ❷ **Seeds / Roots:** Reproduces vegetatively from roots, rhizomes, stem fragments, and by seeds that can lie dormant in the soil for up to 50 years.
- ❸ **Leaves:** Smooth, arrowhead-shaped leaves.
- ❹ **Flowering Time:** June - October.
- ❺ **Life cycle/ other:** A deep-rooted perennial vine with twining stems that can reach 6 ft in length.

Impacts:

- Once established, nearly impossible to fully eradicate.
- Out-competes native plant species by forming dense infestations.
- Field bindweed can reduce crop yields by up to 60%.
- Threatens restoration efforts by out-competing new plantings.

Control:

- Remove seedlings before they become perennial plants and produce seeds. Don't dispose in backyard compost piles.
- Avoid digging or tilling the soil around mature field bindweed roots; Roots or rhizome fragments left behind may resprout.
- For small infestations repeated hand pulling works eventually but is highly labor intensive.
- For small infestations herbicides can be painted or brushed on leaves to avoid drift onto desirable plants. Products containing glyphosate are effective when applied in the summer and fall before the leaves die back.
- For large infestations smothering plants with mulch, black plastic or plastic-fiber mats (geotextiles) is another option, but the covering must be kept in place for several years. Success may be somewhat limited as field bindweed can persist without light, sending its underground roots beyond the edge of the covering to start a new infestation.
- For best results, control methods should be used throughout several growing seasons; success in controlling this weed requires the **prevention** of seeds, **competition** from more desirable vegetation and vigilance in **removing new growth**.



USDA PLANTS Database, USDA NRCS PLANTS Database, Bugwood.org

*Please visit our website for references sourcing this information.



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