

Field Bindweed

Convolvulus arvensis L.

Alternate Names

Perennial morning-glory, creeping jenny, small-flowered morning glory

Synonyms

Convolvulus ambigens
House, *Convolvulus incanus* auct. non Vahl,
Strophocaulos arvensis (L.) Small

Description

Field bindweed is a perennial, weak-stemmed vine growing from extensive underground roots and rhizomes. This species forms prostrate mats or is supported by other plants and objects such as fence posts or utility poles. Leaves are highly variable, $\frac{3}{4}$ –2½ inches long, and arrowhead-shaped to round, ovate, and sometimes linear. The veins on a mature leaf are pale green, depressed on the upper surface and raised on the lower surface. Flowers have 5 fused petals forming a 1-inch-long, funnel-like corolla, white to pale pink.

Similar Species

Black bindweed (*Polygonum convolvulus* L., included in this book) has similar habit and vegetative features, but its arrowhead-shaped leaves are less variable than field bindweed, and it lacks the distinct, large, funnel-shaped



Field bindweed.

KULAK photo by Paul Busselen



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Family: Convolvulaceae

Field Bindweed

flowers of field bindweed. Out of flower, black bindweed has a papery sheath surrounding each leaf node.

Management

Field bindweed is best managed by a combination of above-ground biomass removal and competition from desirable vegetation. Field bindweed will not grow under dense shade. Strategies that focus on exhausting biomass stored in belowground root systems are advised. Extensive use of tillage is effective in agricultural settings. Drought decreases the effectiveness of herbicide treatments (Lyons 1998).

Notes

Field bindweed is listed as a prohibited noxious weed in Alaska (Alaska Administrative Code 1987) and is found at a number of sites across the Kenai Peninsula (E. Bella, pers. comm. 2005). The genus name is derived from the Latin *convolvere*, to entwine. A closely related genus is *Ipomoea*, the sweet potato. Because of its wide distribution and economic impact, field bindweed has been considered one of the “world’s 10 worst weeds” (Holm et al. 1977).



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