



Field Bindweed



flower



leaf



seeds

Field Bindweed

Genus: Convolvulus

Species: arvensis

Priority Listing: 2B

Perennial

Field bindweed is native to Eurasia and was likely introduced into the United States in contaminated crop seed as early as 1739.

Field bindweed typically **inhabits** farm fields, roadsides, grasslands, and along streams. It can also be a nuisance in flowerbeds and gardens. Because field bindweed can produce thick dense mats it is very detrimental to agricultural production as it intertwines with surrounding vegetation and chokes out those plants, eventually taking over.

Field bindweed is a member of the morning glory family. It is a creeping **herbaceous** perennial that is easily recognized by its trumpet shaped flowers that range in color from white to pale pink with five slightly darker pink radial stripes; flowers are 3/4" to 1" in diameter and bloom in mid-summer to early fall. Leaves of

field bindweed are about 3/4" to 2" long and are linear to arrowhead in shape. Field bindweed reproduces through **rhizomatous** stems and long-lived seeds.

Seeds are 3 to 5 mm long and dull brownish-grey in color, and they have a hard seed coat. One single field bindweed plant can produce 25 to 300 seeds. The seeds are a favorite food for many species of birds; when eaten the hard seed coat allows them to pass through the digestive system intact and **viable** so when discarded they can start a new plant!

Another factor that makes this plant so difficult to get rid of is that its root system stores carbohydrates and proteins which allow the plant to sprout repeatedly from roots and lateral underground stems following removal of above ground plant parts.



Photo courtesy of Matt Lavin, via Flickr

Herbaceous: not woody, usually green and soft

Inhabits: to live in, reside in, or be present in

Perennial: a plant whose life spans several years

Rhizomatous: referring to a plant that has rhizomes, or underground stems which can produce new plants

Viable: capable of growing or developing