

C. Field Bindweed

(*Convolvulus arvensis*)

Key Characteristics:

Field bindweed is a member of the Morning-glory family, introduced from Europe. It is a creeping perennial that reproduces by both seed and rhizomes.

Stems lie close to the ground, are smooth, slender, slightly angled, 1 to 4 feet long, and spread thickly over the ground or wind around erect plants or other objects.

Leaves are alternate, 1 to 2 inches long with great variation in shape. They are somewhat arrow shaped with spreading, pointed, or blunt lobes at the base. The flowers are white or pink bell shaped about ¾ to 1 inch broad.



Field bindweed is one of the most competitive perennial weeds in Colorado, and is very common throughout Pitkin County. A two or three year food supply is stored in the root system, making this plant very difficult to kill. It is best to eliminate young bindweed plants before they have a chance to develop their extensive root system. Seeds can stay viable in the soil for up to 40 years. This plant is also **poisonous** to horses.

Biological control:

The Field Bindweed Gall Mite, *Aceria malherbae*, is now available for Bindweed Control. It is available for a small fee from the Colorado Department of Agriculture Insectary until 2012, when distribution will be turned over to counties to manage.

Cultural control:

Good vegetative cover helps but does not prevent Field Bindweed invasion and spread.

Mechanical control:

Do not Cultivate! Cultivation will chop up the root system and spread it more rapidly. Smothering or clipping (without disturbing roots) can be effective on small infestations if done thoroughly.

Chemical control:

There are effective herbicide options for Field Bindweed control. Contact the Pitkin County Land Management Department for more specific information about products, rates, and equipment calibration.