

Field bindweed

Convolvulus arvensis

Field bindweed is an invasive perennial that is commonly found in Ontario. This plant can be found in areas such as fence lines, roadsides, gardens, cultivated fields, and other disturbed areas. Field bindweed is native to Europe, Asia, and northern Africa. It was introduced to North America from Europe in the 18th century.

Field bindweed has morning glory-like flowers that range from pink to white in colour. Their flowers are about 2.5 cm wide and can be found in a solitary arrangement or in pairs. The leaves are triangular and are arranged alternately. The stems of field bindweed are smooth with fine hairs, wrapping around nearby structures and their stems can grow up to 3m in length. They produce grey seeds that can remain viable for tens of years after they are formed.

There are several ways to remove field bindweed from your garden and lessen the spread. The first being to remove the plants before they have a chance to seed. Cutting or pulling off new growth when it is not possible to remove by the root is a good way to suppress the spread. Field bindweed can regenerate from root fragments, so it is important to avoid cutting the roots when removing them from the soil.

Field bindweed spreads through their extensive network of roots and their seeds. This invasive plant twists and climbs along native plants, smothering them. A single field plant can produce 25 to 300 seeds depending on their growing conditions. Young plants grow a deep taproot and lateral roots that can extend up to 60m. The majority of this root system can be found in the top 30 to 40 cm of the soil.

There are native perennials in Ontario that form dense standings that can compete with field bindweed. These include; Large-leaved Aster, Panicked Aster, and New England Aster.

