

Field bindweed
(*Convolvulus arvensis*)

Currently in Montana, noxious weeds infest about 8.2 million acres. Many of these state listed noxious weeds were brought to America as ornamentals for gardens, medicinal purposes, by accident in discarded soil from a ship's ballast, or unintentionally in bags of seed brought from other parts of the world. Whatever the cause of introduction non-native plant species have found their way onto Montana's state listed noxious weed list.

Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) 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. 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 trumpeted shaped flowers that range in color from white to pale pink with five slightly darker pink radial stripes; flowers bloom in mid-summer to early fall. Leaves of field bindweed can be up to 2" long and are linear to arrowhead in shape. Field bindweed reproduces through rhizomatous stems and long-lived seeds. Seeds are brownish-grey in color, and they have a hard seed coat. One single field bindweed plant can produce up to 300 seeds per year. 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. Seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 60 years. 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 repetitively from roots and lateral underground stems following removal of above ground plant parts.

Please take a few moments to learn about noxious weeds. If noxious weeds are not currently a problem in your area, they may be in the near future. For more information about Montana's state listed noxious weeds, regulated plants, or weed species listed on your county weed list, please contact your local county weed district (can list weed district name here... ex: Lewis & Clark County Weed District) at (406) (Phone number). Or you can contact the Montana Department of Agriculture at (406) 444-5600.