Controlling Field Bindweed and Hedge Bindweed
Michigan State University Extension Service
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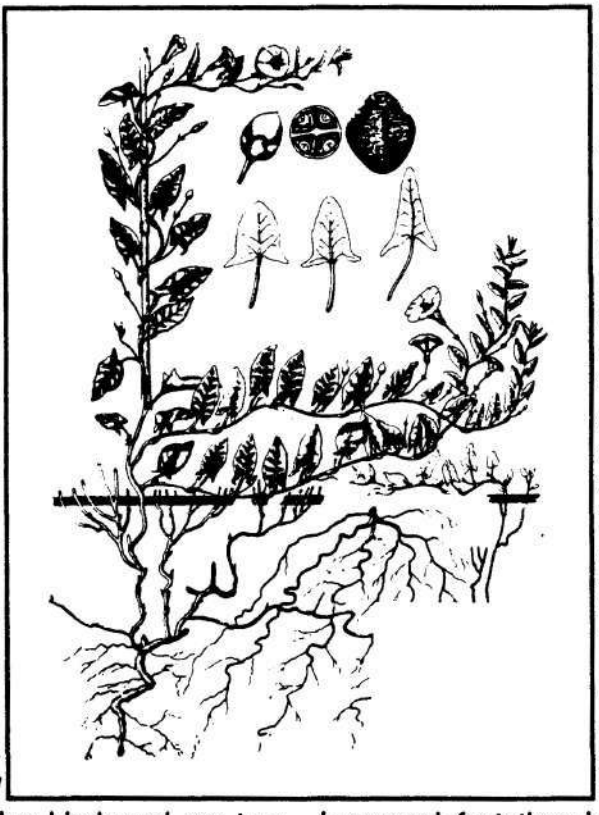
What Is a Perennial Weed?

A perennial weed is any weed capable of surviving for three or more years. Perennial weeds are characterized by vegetative reproduction. Vegetative reproduction in these species is due to (a) rhizomes - underground creeping stems commonly found in perennial grasses; (b) stolons - prostrate stems or runners on the soil surface with roots at the nodes; (c) creeping roots; (d) tubers - underground enlarged storage stems; or (e) bulbs - underground storage organs consisting of a stem axis covered with many overlapping leaf scales.

Perennial weeds may or may not reproduce by seed. They always, however, have the potential to reproduce by vegetative means.



Description of Field Bindweed and Hedge Bindweed

Field bindweed and hedge bindweed are two closely related members of the morningglory family. They are not morningglories since they are perennial weeds while morningglories are annual weeds. Both bindweed species have extensive root systems. The roots of field bindweed may reach a soil depth of 20 to 30 feet while hedge bindweed roots are much more shallow. Stems are smooth, slender, and range in length from 2 to 10 feet. Leaves of field bindweed are 1½ to 2½ inches long and are oblong in shape with arrowhead-like bases. Leaves of hedge bindweed are up to 4 inches long, more triangular in shape than field bindweed, with a sharp point at the tip. Flowers on both species are funnel-shaped and white to pink in color. Flowers of hedge bindweed are larger than those of field bindweed. Seeds are dark brownish to gray and dull with one rounded and two flattened sides. Plants reproduce by seeds, stems, and creeping rootstocks.

Method of Control

Methods of perennial weed control fall into three categories: (a) cultural, such as crop rotation; (b) mechanical, tillage including various implements such as plows, disks, or cultivators; and (c) chemical, using herbicides. Control of perennial weeds may require a combination of all these methods. Consider the energy and environmental implications when choosing a method of control.

Mechanical Control

Mechanical control may increase or decrease perennial weed infestations. Tillage may increase infestations by moving perennial weeds to new areas of the field or breaking dormancy of underground buds resulting in new shoot growth. Tillage during cool, wet conditions results in reduced control.

Tillage may decrease perennial weed infestations if done frequently enough to deplete underground root reserves. The field should be tilled every two or three weeks. Warm, dry soil conditions increase the effectiveness of tillage for perennial weed control by drying plant roots on the soil surface.

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Chemical Control of Field Bindweed and Hedge Bindweed

Soybeans

Herbicide[1]	Rate	Timing	Effectiveness
Blazer + NIS[2]	2 pt/A + ¼%	POST	Poor
Cobra + COC[2]	0.78 pt/A + 1 pt/A	POST	Poor

[1] These treatments cause top growth suppression only. Two applications of Blazer may be necessary. 2,4-DB may be added to Blazer and nonionic surfactant removed to increase activity. Read the label as 2,4-DB can injure soybeans.

[2] NIS = nonionic surfactant; COC = crop oil concentrate

Corn

Herbicide	Rate	Timing (Weed height)	Effectiveness
2,4-D amine[1]	1 pt/A	8" runners	Fair
Banvel	½ pt/A	8" runners	Fair
Banvel + 2,4-D amine	¼ pt/A + ½ pt/A	8" runners	Fair
2,4-D ester[1]	1 qt/A	Preharvest application (after brown silk stage of corn)	Good

[1] 2,4-D is effective only on hedge bindweed.

Spot treatments and between crops

Herbicide	Rate	Timing[1] (Weed stage)	Effectiveness
Roundup	2%	Spot treatment (full bloom)	Good
Roundup	3 - 4 qt/A	Full bloom or beyond	Good
Banvel	1 - 2 qt/A[2]	Full bloom	Good
Roundup + Banvel	2 qt/A + 1 pt/A	Full bloom	Good

[1] Do not treat when bindweed is under drought stress.

[2] Banvel at 1 qt/A will provide suppression; 2 qt/A will provide control.

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This publication contains pesticide recommendations based on research and pesticide regulations. However, changes in pesticide regulations occur constantly. Some pesticides mentioned may no longer be available, and some uses may no longer be legal. If you have questions about the legality and/or registration status for using pesticides, contact your county Cooperative Extension Service office.

To protect yourself and others and the environment, always read the label before applying any pesticide.

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