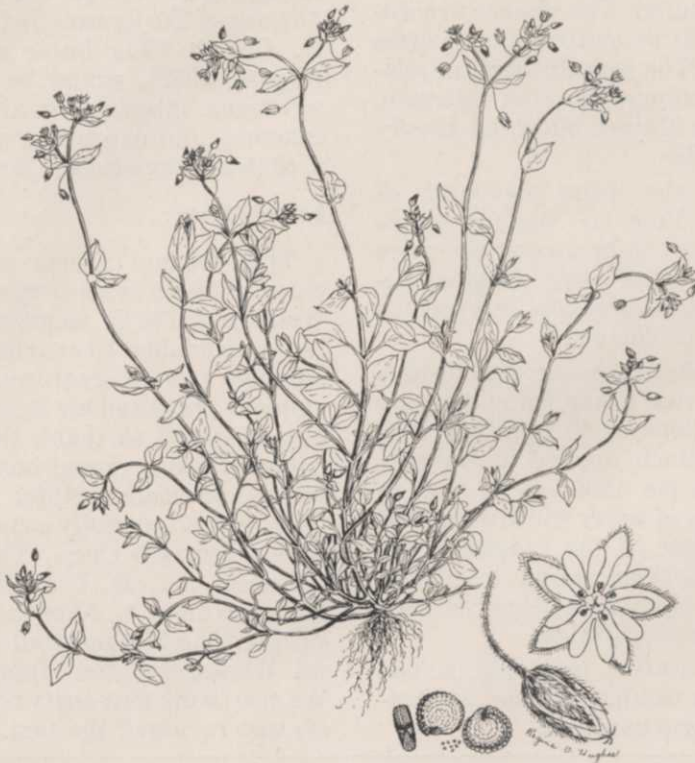


**COMMON CHICKWEED**

(*Stellaria media*)



Common chickweed is an annual or winter annual which reproduces by seeds and by rooting at low points along the trailing stems. The weed is common on rich soils of gardens and shady or moist lawns throughout North America, especially on the east coast. This weed shares the same common name as another pest species, mouse-eared chickweed, a perennial plant which is densely hairy and has no stalks on its leaves.

Stems of common chickweed are many branched, low and creeping, and have rows of hairs on them. The branches which stand erect may reach a height of 12 inches. Leaves are opposite each other on the stem, spoon-shaped in appearance, and less than 1 inch long. The lower leaves have a stalk while upper ones sit close against the stem. Flowers of common chickweed are small and white, with 5 deeply notched petals. Seeds are nearly round, 1 mm. across, and notched. The reddish-brown seeds are roughened by curved rows of tubercles.

Roots are shallow, fibrous, and easily pulled from the ground.

Common chickweed often germinates in the fall and grows during the winter. It flowers and produces seed in late spring and early summer. It usually dies by summer.

Recommended control methods of chickweed in established lawns consist of applying urea compounds such as neburon in fall until the ground freezes. Silvex may be used at any time that the weeds are growing rapidly.

Application of a pre-emergent herbicide such as Dacthal in the fall would prevent germination of chickweed and other winter annuals such as annual bluegrass.

*Prepared in cooperation with Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland.*

DRAWING BY REGINA HUGHES, USDA, BELTSVILLE

**U. S. Borax Makes Soil Sterilant To Control Weeds Under Paving**

Undesirable vegetation in the subsoil of a paving project can be effectively controlled with Monobor-Chlorate, a new herbicide from U.S. Borax, the firm announced recently.

The weedkiller can be applied either dry, by hand or mechanical spreader, or in solution from conventional spray equipment. It has nonselective, quick-killing action on the root systems and shoots of perennial and annual vegetation, the company stated.

To be marketed in 25 lb. and 50 lb. bags, the new product is a combination of sodium chlorate and sodium borate, and will not corrode underground piping or application equipment, according to U.S. Borax.

"Because Monobor-Chlorate Granular kills plant tissue on contact, the pavement is protected against initial ruptures. And because weeds under paving can be killed only by absorbing a toxic chemical dissolved in the moisture about them, Monobor-Chlorate's high solubility in water enables it to be incorporated into the soil from existing moisture," Dr. L. M. Stahler, U.S. Borax Director of Agricultural Chemical Sales, reports.

Dr. Stahler also says the new product is effective in other surfaced areas, such as irrigation ditches, reservoir sites, and fire walls around storage tanks containing flammable liquids.

CAs interested in more information on Monobor-Chlorate should write to U.S. Borax, Marketing Department, 630 Shatto Place, Los Angeles 5, Calif.

**Data on Spreader-Sticker Ready**

Test results of effectiveness and proportionate cost of various spreader-stickers, chemical agents which reduce the surface tension of water to give better coverage of sprayed surfaces, are contained in Star-Bar Technical Bulletin No. 101.

The bulletin, which includes results of tests with Star-Bar's "Slick," is available to interested CAs by writing to the Star-Bar Division, Agricultural Specialties, 12200 Denton Dr., Dallas, Texas.