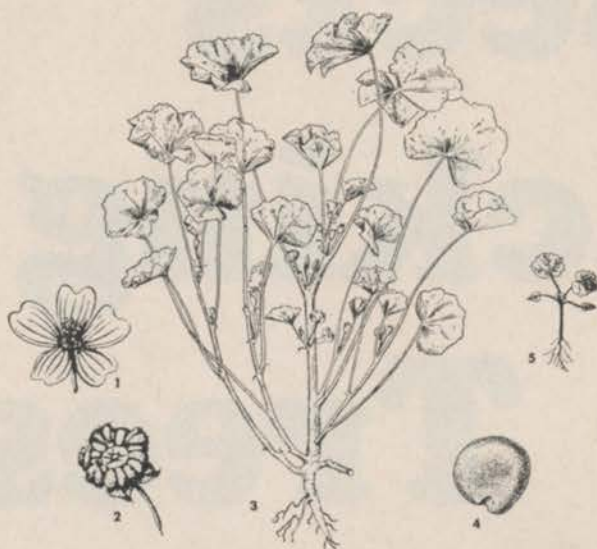


Common Mallow

(*Malva neglecta*)



Introduced from Eurasia, common mallow is widespread throughout North America. It inhabits moist, loamy soil types and grows in yards, gardens, and cultivated fields.

Other common names for this species are round-leaf mallow, running mallow, cheeses, buttonweed, and low mallow. It is annual or a short-lived perennial species, sometimes called biennial and reproduces only by seeds.

Growth habit is semiprostrate; stems extend upward or they grow laterally from the crown at ground level. Seedlings (5) may grow, for a short time, both upward and laterally. Stems are hairy and may be 3 feet long. A deep, fibrous taproot (3) supports the plant.

Leaves are bright green and nearly round. Their edges are irregularly scalloped or have shallow lobes, and are from 1 to 3 inches in diameter. Leaves are alternate on the stems.

Flowers are produced singly or clustered in a leaf axil. They are small, bell shaped, and bluish white. Each flower (1) has five petals, each from 1/3 to 2/3 inch long.

Seeds (4) are produced within a cup (calyx bracts) formed by the flower head. They are attached together in a circle in the cup or pod (2) which is round, flat, and buttonlike. The button-shaped pod resembles a round cheese divided into 10 or 20 seed sections, thus the common name "cheeses." Seeds are dark gray, flattened, and nearly circular with a deep notch in one side. Often they contaminate flower, clover, and grass seed. A single plant may produce over 40,000 of these tiny (1/16 in. dia.) seeds each year.

During the period of rapid leaf and stem growth, this weed is eliminated by 2,4-D, 2,4,5-T, or silvex treatments at the rate of 1 lb. per acre. During periods of slower growth, repeated treatments are necessary. In lawns and yards its spread can be halted by cutting before seed is produced.

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

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Dr. C. R. Funk, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, and Dr. Joseph M. Duich of Penn. State University, chatted during a pre-session break. Dr. Funk told weed control delegates about the influence of grass variety, fertility level, and cutting height on weed invasion in Kentucky bluegrass. Dr. Duich discussed control of broadleaf weeds in turf.

ceptibility to invasion by crabgrass," Funk asserted. "Crabgrass was most serious in our test plots at high fertility, but broadleaf weeds were more serious at low fertility. During establishment, grasses with rapid germination and vigorous seedlings were less effected by weed competition than were slower starting varieties. Use of rapid starting grasses as companion species with bluegrass varieties is one method of reducing weed competition," Dr. Funk advised.

Knotweed Control Tested

University of Rhode Island researcher, Dr. Richard Skogley, reported on "Early and Mid-Season Chemical Control of Knotweed in Turfgrass." Effectiveness of about 30 herbicides or their combinations were tested for selective knotweed control in 1965 during one early season and one midseason trial.

"When treatment was made to young plants, knotweed control was achieved with more chemicals applied at lower rates," Skogley announced. "Good control of seedling knotweed resulted from treatments of liquid DMPA at 15 lbs./A., and with dicamba as low as 0.25 lb./A. A combination of 0.1 lb. dicamba with 1 lb. of 2,4-D per acre gave knotweed control, and mecoprop-2,4-D combinations gave control at dosages as low as 0.5 mecoprop with 1 lb. 2,4-D per acre.

"At both early and midseason stages of growth, good knotweed control was obtained only with dicamba at 1 lb./A. Dicamba-