

# “B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant,  
but may have limited distribution in some counties

**Field bindweed**  
*Convolvulus arvensis*

**Other common names:** Morning glory, lesser  
bindweed, withy wind, possession vine, creeping jenny

**USDA symbol:** COAR4  
**ODA rating:** B and T



**Introduction:** Distributed widely in North America, it was most likely introduced as a contaminant in grains and crop seed. This deep-rooted perennial causes significant economic harm in cereal crops, orchards, in vegetable production and mint. Organic agriculture is very difficult in infested fields. Tillage increases plant densities within a field and herbicidal control is challenging depending on the crop and herbicide selectivity. It is a common pest of yards and landscapes where control options are limited.

**Distribution in Oregon:** It is widely distributed in Oregon inhabiting roadsides; grasslands grain fields and urban landscapes. It is a common feature in home gardens.

**Description:** Field bindweed is a deep-rooted herbaceous perennial. Its stems are prostrate, one to four feet long often climbing fences and shrubs or forming dense tangled mats. Leaves are alternate, arrowhead-shaped with lobes at the base. Flowers are bell or trumpet shaped, white to pinkish and one inch in diameter. Its fruit is a small, round capsule, usually four-seeded. It looks and grows similar to the ornamental morning glory.

**Impacts:** Considered a pest throughout the United States, bindweed is known for its ability to reduce crop yields. It competes with crops for moisture and nutrients, and is difficult to remove once established. The twining nature of the plant hampers harvesting of crops, especially in orchards and vineyards.

**Biological controls:** Two approved biological control agents, a moth and a mite are established in Oregon.

