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Agriculture Protection Board
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FIELD BINDWEED



1. Flower 2. Mature plant 3. Stem twining around oat stalk 4. Seed

FIELD BINDWEED

Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis* L) is a member of the sweet potato (Convolvulaceae) family.

Occurrence:

Bindweed is one of the most important weeds of the world.

Originating in Europe, it is a major problem in North America, South Africa and New Zealand. It has been established in Victoria since the 1890's. Occasional infestations have been found in Western Australia but it has not yet become widely established.

Bindweed is a declared plant (noxious weed) throughout Western Australia.

Significance:

Bindweed is a nuisance in orchards and vineyards. It competes with crop plants for light and soil moisture. In cereals it interferes with harvesting. When eaten by stock, it has no feed value and may cause vomiting.

Control of established plants is difficult due to regeneration from rhizomes (underground stems). Only seedlings and young plants are susceptible to control by herbicides.

Description:

Bindweed is a prostrate twining plant with long, slender, pale-green stems.

It has a vigorous taproot which develops rapidly. The root may penetrate to 3 m deep in suitable soils.

Bindweed leaves are arrowshaped with rounded basal lobes. They are arranged alternately on the stems.

The flowers are white to pink, funnel shaped and up to 3 cm in diameter.

They open in sunlight and close in shade.

The fruit is a capsule containing 2 to 4 grey-brown triangular seeds about 1 mm in length with a rough speckled coat.

Ecology:

Bindweed is a perennial plant

spreading from underground stems (rhizomes) and by seeds. New plants germinate in the spring and flower during the summer. The foliage dies off in the autumn. Spread within a paddock is by lateral growth and distribution of root fragments by cultivation. Seeds are dispersed as a contaminant in crop seeds and animal manure.

The seed has a hard coat which delays water absorption and may delay germination for up to 40 years. Bindweed has the potential to become a serious weed in Western Australia. It is essential to prevent its establishment here.

For advice on Bindweed recognition and control, contact the Agriculture Protection Board, telephone (09) 367 0111 or any country officer of the Agriculture Protection Board or the Department of Agriculture.