



# BONNER COUNTY NOXIOUS WEEDS

1500 Hwy 2, Suite 101 • Sandpoint, ID 83864 • Phone: (208) 255-5681ext.6  
<https://www.bonnercountyid.gov/noxious-weeds>

## Weed of the Month

By Chase Youngdahl, *Bonner County Weeds Manager*

At last, dog days of summer are upon us. As much as we enjoy our summers in the inland northwest, the weeds seem to “one up” that enjoyment level! If you get a chance to continue treating weeds that you couldn’t get to in the spring, go for it. Certain perennial weeds have long flowering periods and can be treated well in to the summer—and if summer annual weeds are the target, we’re just now approaching the bolting stage of their growth. Our office is a resource for the public to utilize for control/management advice and weeds identification. Get in touch with us if you need assistance.

Weed of the month is **Field Bindweed** (*Convolvulus arvensis*), a state listed noxious weed in the Morningglory family. This is one of those quiet monsters—it’s not in the forefront in our area like Spotted Knapweed, Thistles, Hawkweeds, Toadflaxes, etc., but just as destructive. It’s a long lived, herbaceous perennial with vine-like stems that create a tangled mess. Flowers are bell shaped and typically white in color, sometimes pink. The leaves vary in size and shape so the viney, prostrate growth habit is the key identifying factor (aside from the flowers once they appear). This specimen will send a taproot over 10 feet deep, and put out horizontal creeping roots about a foot or two from the surface. The seeds do not disburse very far from the parent plants, but there can be up to 500 per plant. The spread is almost equal between the root systems and the seed.

Field Bindweed is found in pastures, cropland, roadsides, abandoned lots and commercial lots. It prefers fertile production crop ground, that’s where it has a tendency to be the most prolific; although it can tolerate and inhabit some of the most extreme conditions too. I once found some Field Bindweed skeletons in the crawl space under my house! The little bit of light coming through the vents in the foundation was just enough for it to germinate and grow.



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If an infestation is caught early enough, hand pulling can be effective, but not if it has had an opportunity to develop a full root system. Mowing is not effective due to the low profile growth habit. Repeated cultivation can manage it, but you need to stay on it constantly throughout the growing season for several consecutive years. Herbicide control can go one of two ways, depending on the use site (refer to the labels)... Triclopyr products (Vastlan®, Garlon®, Crossbow®) as well as Fluroxypyr (Vista XRT®) provides suppression, but not full control. To achieve legitimate control with herbicides on Field Bindweed, you need to use a chemistry that persists in the soil, such as Aminocyclopyrachlor products (Perspective®, Method®). Imazapyr products (Polaris®, Habitat® & generics) also provide solid control if killing desirable grasses can be tolerated. This particular weed almost needs to be treated in similar fashion as Leafy Spurge (the one I presented in my previous installment) due to the deep root system. The good news is, Field Bindweed has a long flowering stage—June until the first killing frost. Therefore, your treatment window is long.

Hope you all have a spectacular summer and remember to not hesitate to get in touch with me if you have any weeds related questions. One final note, the Selkirk Cooperative Weed Management Area published an updated weeds handbook this spring. It replaces the Idaho Panhandle Noxious Weeds Handbook that was published in 2010. Pick up a copy at the CO-OP, our office, or our table at the Bonner County Fair in August!