

# Twining Habit Look-Alikes



## WILD BUCKWHEAT

(*Fallopia convolvulus*)

Wild buckwheat, often called black bindweed, is an **annual** in the Polygonaceae family. It has heart-shaped leaves and a twining growth habit. Stems can appear pink or reddish. Wild buckwheat flowers occur in clusters and are not trumpet-shaped.

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## HEDGE BINDWEED

(*Calystegia sepium*)

- **Perennial**; Convolvulaceae family
- Similar growth habit, twines over existing vegetation.
- Leaf shape is similar, but hedge bindweed leaves are larger and more heart-shaped.
- **Flowers are much larger** than field bindweed. Additionally, large **bracts surround the flower** in *C. sepium*; in *C. arvensis* they are very small and located about 1/2" below the flower.



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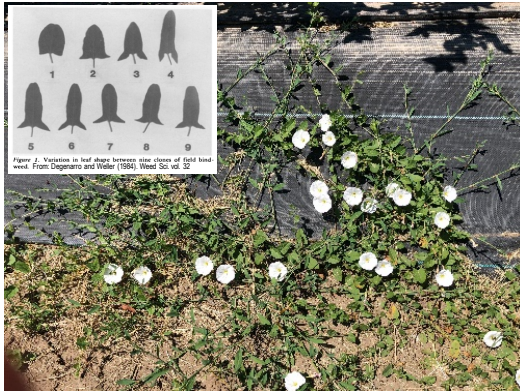
# FIELD BINDWEED VS. OTHER COMMON WEEDS



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# Spreading Habit Look-Alikes



## FIELD BINDWEED

(*Convolvulus arvensis*)

Field bindweed is a **perennial** in the Convolvulaceae family, sometimes called the morning-glory family. It is characterized by **arrowhead-shaped leaves** and small (1-1.5") **trumpet-shaped flowers** that range from pink to white. The plant does produce seed but most growth is due to numerous lateral underground roots. Be aware that biotypes exist, so leaf shape is not always consistent (see inset).



## SHARPPPOINT FLUEVELLIN

(*Kickxia elatine*)

Sharppoint fluellin is an **annual** in the family Scrophulariaceae, the figwort family. This plant has a spreading growth habit, fuzzy stems, and arrowhead shaped leaves. The flowers are small, spurred, and snapdragon-like with purple and yellow lips. The best indicator that this is not field bindweed is the fuzziness of the plant. **Look for hairs on the stems.** The flowers are also distinctive but are small, difficult to see, and not always present.



## PROSTRATE KNOTWEED

(*Polygonum aviculare*)

Prostrate knotweed is an **annual** in the Polygonaceae family. This species has a spreading growth habit, narrow ovular leaves, and miniscule white flowers with a light green center. Prostrate knotweed radiates from a single root and will not twine over other plants the way field bindweed does. This best indicator is that **leaves lack the arrowhead shape** of field bindweed. Second, look for the miniscule flowers, located in leaf axils.