

# Bindweed

*Convolvulus spp.*

Bindweed (*Convolvulus spp.*) is a highly invasive, scrambling perennial vine with white or pink trumpet-shaped flowers and deep, persistent rhizomes that choke out plants and reduce agricultural yields. It is incredibly difficult to eradicate, often requiring long-term management through systemic herbicides (e.g., glyphosate), persistent manual removal, or smothering.

## Identification

**Flowers:** Small, funnel-shaped, typically white or pale pink.

**Leaves:** Alternate, linear to arrow-shaped (pointed or spade-shaped).

**Habit:** Trailing, mat-forming, or climbing by twining around other vegetation.

**Roots:** Extensive, deep-rooted rhizome system that can extend 5 meters deep, allowing for rapid regeneration from tiny fragments.

**Spread:** Primarily via rhizomes and, to a lesser extent, seeds which can remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years.

## Control

**Systemic Herbicide Application:** Effective control often requires spot-treating with herbicides like glyphosate or MSF600, particularly during spring and autumn, as the plant moves nutrients into the roots.

**Persistent Removal:** Regularly pulling, cutting, or mowing the stems can weaken the plant over time, but it must be done consistently.

**Smothering:** Covering the infested area with cardboard and a thick layer (20cm) of organic mulch can block light and starve the plant.

**Avoid Tilling:** Chopping up the roots through hoeing or tilling often makes the problem worse, as each fragment can grow into a new plant.

