



# Whatcom Weeds

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 901 W. Smith Road Bellingham WA 98226  
(360) 715-7470 [www.co.whatcom.wa.us/publicworks/weeds](http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/publicworks/weeds)

## HEDGE BINDWEED

### *Calystegia sepium*

**THREAT:** Hedge bindweed, also called wild morning-glory, is introduced from the eastern United States and is an aggressive climbing plant. It climbs and twines into fences, structures and other vegetation, resulting in hedge-like mounds. Hedge bindweed reproduces by both seeds and by fleshy, creeping rhizomes, which produce many buds. This extensive network of rhizomes makes it very difficult to eradicate the plant. Rhizome pieces can be spread when moving farm equipment and soil, and by cultivation. Seeds can remain dormant in the soil for long periods of time. Hedge bindweed invades vineyards, orchards, gardens, roadsides and other disturbed areas.

**DESCRIPTION:** Hedge bindweed is a perennial in the morning-glory family. It has long climbing or trailing vines, with numerous branches. The dark green leaves are large and arrow-shaped, with a sharp point, although seedling leaves are more heart-shaped. The large, showy flowers are white, occasionally tinged pink, and grow up to 3 inches long. The petals are fused to form a funnel-shaped tube or trumpet, with two large, leafy bracts at the base of the flower. Two to four seeds are contained in an oval or round capsule. The related field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) is introduced from Europe and is also very invasive. It has smaller leaves and smaller, pink flowers, and is less common in Whatcom County than hedge bindweed.

**MANAGEMENT:** Hedge bindweed is difficult to control, once it has become established. Identification and removal of seedlings is important to prevent establishment. Larger plants can be removed by digging, although care must be taken to remove as much of the root system as possible. As there is a high probability that some of the root system will be missed, it is important to continue to check the site for resprouting plants, and remove these promptly. Hedge bindweed can also be controlled with herbicides. Contact the weed control board for site-specific chemical recommendations.



Root masses pulled from the ground