



# MASTER GARDENER

COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION

## Year-Round Gardening

### **Field Bindweed Control**

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Field bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) is a noxious weed in the morning glory family. It commits several unforgivable offenses, it spreads from an extensive root system, and it reseeds. It will outcompete and even strangle desirable plants. Noxious weeds are defined as non-native plants that aggressively invade, and cause damage to an ecosystem or agriculture.

This is a difficult plant to eliminate, but a multi-prong attack sustained over the season should get it under control. Don't let this nasty plant thrive in your garden.

Mowing or weeding doesn't work. The bindweed tap root can extend 20 feet into the soil, and seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 40 years. If



you must weed, get as much root as you can, and understand that you will need to keep weeding until you exhaust the plants energy supply. Do not unnecessarily till the soil, this will stimulate the seeds to germinate.

Chemical controls are available. Products containing Dicamba+2-4 D, or Glyphosate are best applied once plants are in bloom through the autumn. Dicamba+2-4D is broad leaf weed killer, that means it should not harm grasses, it will however damage most ornamental non-grassy plants. Glyphosate will damage or kill grasses and broad leaf plants. These products should be applied on a calm, dry day, with temperatures

between 60 and 75 °F. It is important to read all label instructions thoroughly when applying any chemical, as the label is the law. The label will also tell you any safety precautions to take and proper application techniques.

There has been substantial publicity around recent litigation against the manufacturer of Roundup, a glyphosate product. Homeowners should use their own judgement and risk tolerance when considering the use of these products. The following guidance is provided by

Thia Walker, a pesticide education specialist at Colorado State University. *“The recent lawsuit decision was made by a jury vote, not scientific information about the product. Please see the following statement from the FDA: “The EPA evaluates the safety of pesticides such as glyphosate. According to EPA, glyphosate has a low toxicity for people. Pets may be at risk of digestive or intestinal problems if they touch or eat plants that have just been sprayed. In December 2017, the EPA issued a Draft Risk Assessments for Glyphosate concluding that glyphosate is not likely to be carcinogenic in humans.”*

*One international organization (the International Agency for Research on Cancer) concluded that glyphosate may be a carcinogen, while several others, including the European Food Safety Authority and the Joint Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)/World Health Organization (WHO) Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR), have determined that it is unlikely to be a carcinogen.”*

If you would like more information check out the following:

Chemical control of bindweed: Colorado State University Planttalk 2104 Control of Bindweed

<https://planttalk.colostate.edu/topics/weeds-cultural-problems/2104-controlling-bindweed/>

Bindweed in lawns: Colorado State University Planttalk 1552 Bindweed Control in Lawns

<https://planttalk.colostate.edu/topics/lawns/1552-bindweed-control-lawns/>

When you have questions, Colorado State University Extension has research-based answers. The Help Desk is open at 17 N. Spruce St. Hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. Call 520-7684 or email [CSUmg2@elpasoco.com](mailto:CSUmg2@elpasoco.com).