

BROADLEAF WEEDS

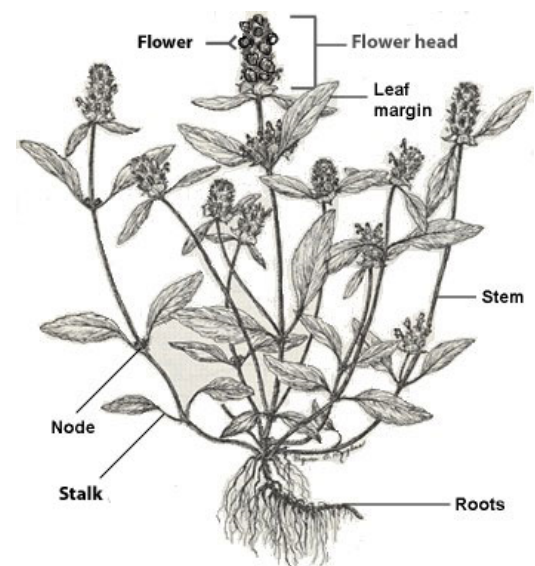
TITLE:	CHICKWEED (COMMON)
LATIN NAME:	<i>Stellaria media</i>
FAMILY:	Caryophyllaceae
OVERALL DESCRIPTION:	
A winter annual that can become perennialized in cool, moist, areas. Seeds germinate in late summer into fall and early spring. These plants produce white flowers and seed in spring. Common chickweed forms prostrate, dense patches in turfgrass. Chickweed grows world-wide and throughout the United States. As the name implies, seeds are a preferred food for chicken and other birds.	
LIFE CYCLE	Winter annual
SEASONS OF GROWTH	Early spring into early summer. Produces seeds within five weeks of full plant germination and continue production for months.
FLOWERS / SEEDHEAD	Small, white, (less than ¼ inch wide) consisting of five sepals and five white petals. Petals are lobe-shaped giving the appearance of 10 petals. Fruit is a one-celled capsule at the end of the stalk, with multiple tiny seeds, light brown in color.
LEAF SHAPE	Oval shaped.
LEAF EDGES	Smooth, slightly ruffled at the edges, but pointed at the tips.
LEAF ARRANGEMENT	Bright green smooth leaves grow opposite each other; sepals around the base of the flower are covered with very fine hairs.
GROWTH HABIT	Prostrate, often forming a dense mat, but can grow erect to six inches or more.
FULL LEAF SIZE	¼ inch or less in length
STEM CHARACTERISTICS	Typically, slender, and prostrate branching.
ROOT	Shallow and fibrous.
ANY OTHER DISTINGUISHING TRAITS	Single line of white hairs running along the length of each stem.



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Common Typical Broadleaf Weed Structure

TYPE OF SOIL CONDITIONS OR PRACTICES FAVORING GROWTH	Thrives in moist, shady areas, likes nutrient-rich soils but is not limited to those areas.
KEY MESSAGE TO HOMEOWNER	While Chickweed is found almost anywhere including lawns and in landscape plantings, it will die out in sunny areas and lawns by mid-summer; those in shady areas, by late summer.
CULTURAL CONTROL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The primary method of control in turf is to maintain a thick, vigorous lawn. This will prevent chickweed seedlings from getting established. Do not mow low. • Hand weeding will effectively control chickweed if done early. It is most effective when the soil is dry, and the plants are small.
BIOLOGICAL CONTROL	None noted.
CHEMICAL CONTROL	Chemical controls should not be used to control chickweed , however if your situation requires an aggressive approach, choose a post-emergent product with the active ingredient 2, 4-D, in combination with any of the following: Dicamba, MCPP, Triclopyr, or Penoxsulam. Read entire chemical label before each use. Follow printed instructions to the letter. Heed all cautions and warnings.
<u>SOURCES OF INFORMATION</u>	<p>Virginia Tech, College of Life Sciences, Weed Identification https://weedid.cals.vt.edu/profile/346</p> <p>University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program, Common Chickweed http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/WEEDS/common_chickweed.html</p> <p>VCE, Pest Management Guide (PMG) Home Grounds and Animals, 2021 https://fairfaxgardening.org/wp-content/webdocs/ref/2021PestManagementGuide.pdf</p> <p><i>Weeds of The Northeast</i> Uva, Richard H., Joseph C. Neal, & Joseph M. DiTomaso. 1997. Cornell University Press</p>
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