

# BROADLEAF WEEDS

<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>COMMON MALLOW</b>
<b>LATIN NAME:</b>	<i>Malva neglecta</i> Wallr.
<b>FAMILY:</b>	Malvaceae
<b>OVERALL DESCRIPTION:</b>	
A Eurasian species, the common mallow grows where the soil has been disturbed. Included in its family are desirable plants, such as cotton, hibiscus, okra, and <i>Althaea officinalis</i> , the original ingredient of marshmallows! Present throughout the United States, it is an invasive weed whose leaves and seeds are edible.	
<b>LIFE CYCLE</b>	Spreading annual or biennial; grows year-round but primarily April through November.
<b>SEASONS OF GROWTH</b>	Perennial
<b>FLOWERS / SEEDHEAD</b>	Flowers can be pink, lavender, or white, with 4-5 petals/rays. The showy flowers appear in summer. The petals are notched at the tip so a blossom may appear to have 10 petals.
<b>LEAF SHAPE</b>	Ovate (egg-like)
<b>LEAF EDGES</b>	Shallowly lobed with toothed edges
<b>LEAF ARRANGEMENT</b>	Alternate
<b>GROWTH HABIT</b>	Begins as basal rosettes, with two smooth, heart-shaped leaves. Then adult leaves appear. They are hairy and appear crinkled with the tissue between the leaves puckered. Before the leaves are fully opened, they are folded in bud to form an inverted cone.
<b>FULL LEAF SIZE</b>	Leaves are about 1.5 inches wide, with prominent veins that radiate from the center of the leaf. They are covered on both sides by short hairs.
<b>STEM CHARACTERISTICS</b>	4 to 34 inches long, branched, covered with short hairs. Trail along the ground until they turn upright at the end.
<b>ROOT</b>	Woody taproot with a coarsely branched secondary root system. Roots are various lengths.
<b>ANY OTHER DISTINGUISHING TRAITS</b>	Distinguished from ground ivy ( <i>Glechoma hederacea</i> ) by ground ivy's square stems and minty odor.



Photo: Iowa State University Integrated Crop Management



Photo: Matt Lavin CC-BY-SA 2.0

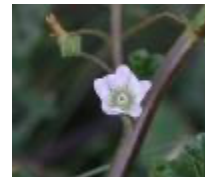


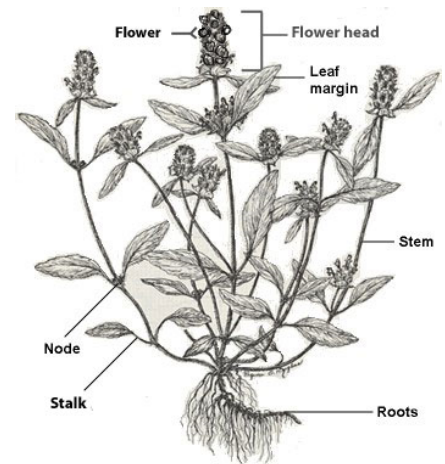
Photo: Michigan State University



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Photos: Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center



## COMMON TYPICAL BROADLEAF WEED STRUCTURE

<b>TYPE OF SOIL CONDITIONS OR PRACTICES FAVORING GROWTH</b>	Grows in disturbed soil. Mallow can survive multiple environmental and soil conditions, such as frigid temperatures and dry, compacted soils, as well as lower mowing heights.
<b>KEY MESSAGE TO HOMEOWNER</b>	Most common in landscapes, low- maintenance turf, and nurse crops. Remove seedlings before they have >4 true leaves.
<b>CULTURAL CONTROL</b>	Control with hand weeding, hoeing, and clean cultivation. Remove plants before flowering to keep seeds out of soil. Solarization and flaming are not effective. Plants with fruits should be removed and burned.
<b>BIOLOGICAL CONTROL</b>	None
<b>CHEMICAL CONTROL</b>	The preferred time to treat mallow is in the spring or summer. Effective herbicides include 2,4-D+dicamba, 2,4-D+dicamba+MCPP, 2,4-D+dicamba+triclopyr, or 2,4-D+dicamba+penoxsulam, rated as I-S in the 2021 Pest Management Guide (Table 5-9), published by Virginia Cooperative Extension. This means that mallow has intermediate tolerance, with good control at times with high application rates, but may require multiple treatments, and that mallow is susceptible to these herbicides, often giving good control of 70% or higher. Always follow label instructions on any pesticide product and use the product in a safe manner
<b>SOURCES OF INFORMATION</b>	<p>North Carolina State Extension, Plant Toolbox, <i>Malva neglecta</i>  <a href="https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/malva-neglecta/">https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu/plants/malva-neglecta/</a></p> <p>Ohio State University, College of Food and Agricultural Sciences, Common Mallow  <a href="https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weedguide/single_weed.php?id=67">https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weedguide/single_weed.php?id=67</a></p> <p>Iowa State University, Extension and Outreach, Integrated Crop Management  <a href="https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/encyclopedia/common-mallow">https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/encyclopedia/common-mallow</a></p> <p>Purdue University, Turfgrass Science at Purdue University, Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture  <a href="https://turf.purdue.edu/common-mallow/">https://turf.purdue.edu/common-mallow/</a></p> <p>Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, Virginia Cooperative Extension, Weed Identification, Common Mallow  <a href="https://weedid.cals.vt.edu/profile/368">https://weedid.cals.vt.edu/profile/368</a></p> <p>Virginia Tech Pest Management Guide  <a href="https://fairfaxgardening.org/wp-content/webdocs/ref/2021PestManagementGuide.pdf">https://fairfaxgardening.org/wp-content/webdocs/ref/2021PestManagementGuide.pdf</a></p>
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