

COMMON MALLOW

Malva rotundifolia, Malva pusilla, Malva neglecta

IS IT A PROBLEM?

YES. It's an edible plant, but it competes with other plants and is difficult to weed (its strong fibrous roots cling to the soil).

HOW DOES IT GROW?

- Can be an **ANNUAL, BIENNIAL,** or **PERENNIAL.**
- May stay green during the winter.
- Grows in bare patches in lawns, garden beds, and neglected areas.
- Spreads by seeds, which can survive for **DECADES** in the soil.

HOW TO CONTROL?

- Try to remove it when it is still small.
- Wait for it to rain, or water the ground before weeding.
- Use weeding tools to get out as much of the roots as you can.
- Mature mallow can be dug out with a **SHOVEL.**
- Don't let it flower.
- To **PREVENT** seeds from sprouting, avoid disturbing the ground, and cover the ground with mulch.

HOW TO IDENTIFY?

- Low-growing plant.
- Leaves are circular and ruffled with slightly toothed edges.
- Leaf veins meet at a central point at the stem.
- **TAPROOTS** have branching fibrous roots attached.
- Flowers are small, white, pink/purple.
- **NOT** easy to pull from the ground.



Malva neglecta

Sources: E-Flora BC: Electronic Atlas of the Flora of British Columbia. *Malva neglecta*
Royer, F. and Dickinson, R. *Weeds of Canada and the Northern United States*. 1999.
Ontario Weeds: Common Mallow. Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs.

Image: Cbaile19, CCO, via Wikimedia Commons