

WILD BUCKWHEAT

Wild buckwheat is sometimes called **black bindweed** and is **OFTEN CONFUSED** with **field bindweed**. Both have arrowhead shaped leaves and vines that grow along the ground and twist around other plants.

HOW TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO?

WILD BUCKWHEAT (Annual)

- Likes partial shade.
- **Pointier** leaf tips.
- Spreads by seed.
- Very small, **greenish flowers** with no petals.
- Thin, short, dark roots.
- **Easy** to pull the roots.

FIELD BINDWEED (Perennial)

- Likes sun.
- **Rounder** leaf tips.
- Spreads by seeds and roots.
- Small, **white 'morning glory' flowers**.
- Very long, white roots.
- **Difficult** to pull the roots.



Polygonum convolvulus

HOW TO CONTROL WILD BUCKWHEAT?

- It's much easier to manage than field bindweed.
- Seedlings are easy to kill by hoeing or covering with mulch.
- Can kill long vines by cutting the stem at the base of the plant.
- Don't let it flower and go to seed – if it does there will be many, many new seedlings in the spring.

Sources: Hartzler, B. and Vittetoe, R. *Wild Buckwheat*. Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. <https://crops.extension.iastate.edu/encyclopedia/wild-buckwheat>
Royer, F. and Dickinson, R. *Weeds of Canada and the Northern United States*, 1999.

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