

Convolvulus (greater bindweed)

Calystegia silvatica

Family Convolvulaceae



Identification

- Robust, sprawling perennial climber that can grow up to 4 m high.
- Large, white, unscented, trumpet-shaped flowers (8 cm in diameter).
- Large arrow-shaped leaves attached to short hairless stalks.
- Leaves (18 cm long x 15 cm wide) attached alternately to twining stems.
- Produces an extensive underground rhizome (underground stems) system.
- Dies back in winter.



Convolvulus growing in an olearia hedge. Photo: G. Bradfield (ECan).



Convolvulus flower and leaf. Photo: G. Bradfield (ECan).

Control

Small plants can be dug out. Ensure all of the rhizomes are removed and disposed of via your household rubbish collection or at your local transfer station. Do not compost as convolvulus can re-sprout from fragments.

For convolvulus that is growing up trees you wish to protect, cut all easily accessible vines close to the ground. This will kill off the top growth and enable it to be pulled down later. The remains of the plant anchored to the ground can be dug out or sprayed with an approved chemical registered for controlling convolvulus. Contact your local gardening centre, agri-chemical supplier or the current agri-chemical manual for chemical advice. When using herbicides always use in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Where is it found?

Convolvulus is commonly found in Canterbury. It can be found growing in many sites including forest margins, waste places, un-grazed pastures, hedgerows and private gardens.

Why is it a problem?

Convolvulus creeps along the ground, climbing up and smothering nearby desirable plants.

It spreads easily to new sites via dumped garden waste that contains rhizome fragments, which can re-sprout to form new plants.

Status

Convolvulus is not officially recognised as a 'pest plant' in Canterbury.



Convolvulus growing to the canopy of an olearia hedge. Photo: G. Bradfield (ECan).