

Convolvulus arvensis

[Synonyms : *Convolvulus ambigens*, *Convolvulus arvensis* var. *angustatus*, *Convolvulus arvensis* var. *crassifolius*, *Convolvulus arvensis* var. *hastulatus*, *Convolvulus arvensis* var. *linearifolius*, *Convolvulus arvensis* var. *obtusifolia*, *Convolvulus arvensis* var. *sagittatus*, *Convolvulus arvensis* var. *sagittifolius*, *Convolvulus arvensis* var. *villosus*, *Convolvulus chinensis*, *Convolvulus sagittifolius*, *Strophocaulos arvensis*]

FIELD BINDWEED is an invasive, clockwise-twining, prostrate or climbing vine. Native to southern Europe and Asia (including Siberia, China, India and Iran), it has large, sometimes pink striped, white flowers.

It is also known as *Acker-Winde* (German), *Ager-Snerle* (Danish), *Åkervinda* (Swedish), *Akkerwinde* (Afrikaans, Dutch), Bearbind, Bearbine, Bearwind, Bedwind, Bellbind, Bellbine, Bell-vine, Bellwind, *Bhadrabala* (Sanskrit), Billy-clippe, Billy-clipper, Bindweed, Bine lily, Common bindweed, Convolvulus, Cornbind, Cornbine, Corn lily, *Corriola* (Portuguese), Creeping Jennie, Creeping Jenny, *Cwlwm y Cythraul* (Welsh), Devil's garters, Devil's guts, Earwig, European bindweed, Fairies' umbrella, Fairies' winecups, Field convolvulus, Gipsy's hat, Glorybind, *Gondal* (Bengali), Granny's nightcap, Hedge bells, Hellweed, *Hiranpadi* (Hindi), Jack-run'-in'-the-country, Kettle smock, Lady's smock, Lady's sunshade, Laplove, *Leblieb tar-raba* (Maltese), Lesser bindweed, Lily, *Liseron des champs* (French), Morning glory, *Muddaid* (Arabic), Old man's nightcap, Parasols, Perennial morning glory, Possession vine, *Pupenec roľný* (Slovak), Robin-run-in-the-field, Ropebind, Ropewind, Sheepbind, Sheepbine, Sheep-blue, Small bindweed, *Svlačec rolní* (Czech), *Taglys* (Welsh), Tie vine, *Vâle* (Channel Islander-Guernsey), *Veil'yes dé r'lié* (Channel Islander-Jersey Norman-French), *Verdeselha* (Portuguese), *Verdisela* (Portuguese), Weed-wind, White smock, Wild morning glory, Wild potato, Willow-wind, *Winde* (German), Withwind, and Withywind; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of humility.

The flowers open in the light and close in the dark or during a rain shower.

Warning – some authorities suggest that field bindweed is potentially poisonous.

The appearance of field bindweed and hedge bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*) are similar.

Arvensis means 'of or growing in cultivated fields or land'.

Farmers and gardeners dislike field bindweed as it strangles anything in its path, particularly if the obstruction is of a small diameter like corn (*Triticum*). (Field bindweed is naturalized in North America and in parts, not least the south-west, it is viewed as a noxious weed.)

Several North American Indian tribes appear to have been familiar with field bindweed. From records it seems that the Okanagan-Colville tribe, when out hunting, used the stems to tie birds and small mammals that had to be carried home.

For the Pomo Indians and some of the Navajo tribe it was a source of medicine. The former used it for treating period problems, while the latter prescribed a plant infusion, taken internally or applied externally, for spider bites.

Medicinally, the laxative properties of the plant have been used in European folk medicine and today, at the turn of the 20th and 21st Centuries, it provides a commercial ingredient for some proprietary medicines and in homoeopathic treatments.