Rainbow&Brown

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0508 299 299

WEED FILE:
BINDWEED
OR CONVOLVULUS

REVISED: MARCH 2025

Great Bindweed

Pink Bindweed

Calystegia sepium (Pink Bindweed)
Calystegia silvatica (Great Bindweed)
Convolvulus arvensis (Field Bindweed)

DESCRIPTION

All of these related species are part of the same family, also known as CONVOLVULUS. This Weed File concentrates on the Great Bindweed but refers to the others where they are distinctly different. However, the Herbicide Control section is relevant to all of them.

The Great Bindweed is a very robust climbing and sprawling perennial plant that grows to 3 to 4 metres in height. It originated in Southern Europe and grows throughout New Zealand. The stems are hairless and twisting, often purple-tinged where exposed to sunlight. These stems form a dense and convoluted mass (hence the alternate name Convolvulus) that twines in an anti-clockwise direction when viewed from above.

Key identifying features:

- Flowers: Large white trumpet-shaped flowers up to 9cm in diameter (Great Bindweed)
- Pink Bindweed: Similar but slightly smaller pink flowers
- Field Bindweed: Smallest flowers (3cm diameter), either white or pink
- Leaves: Arrow or shield-shaped, varying in size (Great: 18cm long, Field: 4cm)
- Stems: Hairless, twisting, purple-tinged, forming dense masses

HABITAT

Bindweeds have an extensive underground rhizome structure that is very persistent and damage tolerant. These plants are highly adaptable, found in gardens, pastures, waste places, forest edges, roadsides, hedges, riversides, and cultivated areas. New shoots emerge in spring, followed by rapid summer growth and flowering from October to May. In autumn, plants send sugars to rhizomes for winter storage, while above-ground parts die back during winter.

DISTRIBUTION

Great Bindweed occurs throughout New Zealand in gardens, waste places, forest edges, and roadsides. Pink Bindweed is common throughout the North Island and Upper South Island. Hybrid forms between Great Bindweed and Pink Bindweed are common, producing plants with pale pink flowers. Field Bindweed is widespread across New Zealand, particularly in cultivated and disturbed areas.

MANUAL REMOVAL

Grubbing or digging out is rarely effective long-term due to the plant's ability to regenerate from remaining rhizome sections. Small individual plants may be removed manually if care is taken to remove the whole underground structure, and all plant material must be removed from the site. Herbicide treatment is generally more effective.

HERBICIDE CONTROL

For best results, apply herbicides in autumn when the plant is moving sugars to its rhizomes. To prevent resistance, rotate between different herbicide types and combine with non-chemical control methods. Regular monitoring and equipment cleaning help prevent spread of resistant populations.

Stump Swabbing:

Cut the stem close to the ground and remove cut foliage and stems for mulching. Liberally swab fresh-cut stump with one of the following:

- **MSF600** 5g per 1L water
- **Rainbow & Brown Glyphosate 360** 100ml per 1L water
- **Rainbow & Brown Glyphosate 540** 70ml per 1L water
- **Granny Herbicide** 45g per 1L water

Cut'n'Paste Gel Applications:

Cut stem close to ground, remove foliage and stems. Apply using brush-on squeeze pack:

- Cut'n'Paste Original
- Cut'n'Paste Bamboo Buster
- Cut'n'Paste Glimax Professional

Spray Applications:

- **GrassMate** 60ml + SuperWetter 10ml per 10L water
- **Rainbow & Brown Dicamba 500 SL** 10ml + **Rainbow & Brown MCPA750** 27ml per 10L water
- **Rainbow & Brown Dicamba 500 SL** 24ml + **WHACK - 2,4-D 800** 30g + SuperWetter 10ml per 10L water
- Lawnclean – Knapsack 12ml per 1L water. Grass-friendly, but may affect young turf. Use only on turf 12+ months old. Do not use on pasture or cropland. Similar to the old Banvine(1) product.

Note: All above spray applications are grass friendly but will kill clover.

- **MSF600** 5g + **SuperWetter** 10ml per 10L water. Non-selective - will kill grass and clover.

IMPORTANT:

Due to regrowth capability from rhizomes, follow-up spraying is essential once regrowth appears. Second treatment typically provides high-level control with minimal further regrowth.

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