

Safe Yard Product Buying Guide

Pest Solution Fact Sheet

Bindweed (Morning Glory)

Field Bindweed (*Convolvulus arvensis*) and Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium* - often called Morning Glory) are similar weeds that are the bane of farmers and gardeners. The flowers and leaves of hedge bindweed are larger than field bindweed, but both plants are invasive and difficult to control. Success requires prevention of seeds, competition from more desirable vegetation, and vigilance in removing new growth. Do not till and do not put in your compost bin, as they will sprout from small root segments.

The following methods and products can help control both field bindweed and hedge bindweed without risking the health of your family, pets, or environment.

Product/type	How to use
Mechanical	
Hand Weeding	Best to weed in early spring when soil is wet, to get as much of the root as possible.
Smothering	Smothering plants with landscape fabric covered with mulch can work, but the covering must be kept in place for 3-4 years, without even a tiny gap where light can enter or the plants can squeeze through. Farmers have also used pumpkins and sunflowers to out-compete bindweed.
Flame Weeding	A flame weeder is a device that uses propane gas and a wand to deliver heat (130° F) to a plant's cell walls, causing them to rupture. Most effective if the weeds are well watered before flaming. You do not have to burn up the plant, just sear it. Have plenty of water handy in case you accidentally start a fire.
Chemical	
Boiling Water	Use for bindweed growing in sidewalk cracks and rock crevices, on a hot sunny day, when they are already heat-stressed.
Horticultural Vinegar (20% acetic acid)	Stronger than your household vinegar, you can spray the leaves on a hot sunny day. Spray only weeds you want to control. Re-apply as needed every 4-7 days. Wear rubber gloves and eye goggles.
Citric Acid/Clove Oil mix	Spray directly on foliage of weeds you want to control. Reapply as needed.

As with all pesticides, protect people, pets, and the environment by following all



Grow Smart, Grow Safe®

Learn about the hazards associated with specific pesticide products at GrowSmartGrowSafe.org.

Disclaimer: List does not include all products carried by store. Product ratings are based on Grow Smart, Grow Safe®. Responsibility for misrepresentation of any product as a result of customization will rest solely with the creator of the altered content. See www.growsmartsafes.org for disclaimer and copyright information.



Field Bindweed



Hedge Bindweed

Try These Products

- 20% Horticultural Vinegar
- Bonide Burnout™
- Flame Weeder

Tips for pesticide application

Many pesticides pose a risk to people, pets, and the environment. Use the following guidelines to minimize these risks.

- Do not overuse. Apply only enough to cover the foliage.
- Follow all safety precautions on the label.

Puget Sound Starts Here.org

Pest control that's safer for your kids, pets, and the environment!

Bindweed (Morning Glory)

Preventing Field and Hedge Bindweed—your best defense!

Keep them off your property	If you bring soil into your garden, it should be free of bindweed seed and roots. Borrowed equipment should be cleaned thoroughly before use in your fields or garden. If you have livestock, be sure their feed doesn't contain bindweed seeds.
Get them while young	If you spot their triangular leaves and tendrils sprouting, remove them before they establish large root systems. Don't dispose of in backyard compost piles; bindweed can resprout from cuttings.
Don't let them go to seed	Eliminating flowers before they set seed is critical, because one plant may produce 500 seeds that can remain viable for 50 years if conditions are right.

How pesticides work

Horticultural Vinegar: The acid causes rapid desiccation of the plant cell tissue, which is why it is best used on a sunny day above 65 degrees F.

Citric Acid/Clove Oil (Burnout): This combination also causes rapid desiccation of the plant cell tissue. Both acid and plant oils like clove oil work on contact to destroy the plant tissue. Plant oils can burn foliage on hot and sunny days because the oils volatize with the heat, so these pesticides are particularly potent during hot weather.

Boiling Water: Pouring boiling water on the plants causes rupture of the plant cells. As with the other options above, it is best used on a hot sunny day. Be careful not to splash it on yourself when pouring it on weeds.

Other Pesticides

Other pesticides that are commonly used to kill bindweed include glyphosate and 2,4-D, both of which can be harmful to people, pets, and wildlife. Glyphosate can also harm pollinators. Glyphosate works by preventing plants from making certain proteins that are needed for plant growth. 2,4-D kills plants by causing the cells in the tissues that carry water and nutrients to divide and grow without stopping.

Ingredients in many common insecticides can pose a significant threat to people, pets, and the environment. Understand the risks by visiting Grow Smart, Grow Safe®: www.growsmartsafes.org



What to consider when using pesticides

Pesticides can also harm desirable plants as well as weeds. Be careful to apply pesticides when they will be most effective at controlling weeds; when the weeds are small.

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