

(revision date:4/5/2016)

<i>Weeds: Catchweed bedstraw (Cleavers)(Galium aparine)</i>
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family: Rubiaceae

cycle Annual

plant type: Broadleaf

Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.

Biology

Catchweed bedstraw is a weakly erect to sprawling plant from a slender taproot. Stems are weak, climbing or twining to over six feet in length. The stems are square in cross-section with short, downward-pointing bristles along the ridges. Narrow leaves occur in whorls of six to eight, with backward-pointing bristles along the leaf margins. Small, four-petaled, white flowers are produced on short stems in the leaf axils. Fruits consist of two nearly round structures joined along the center. The seeds are covered with hooked hairs which aid in dispersal. This plant spreads only by seeds, but a related species (northern bedstraw, *Galium boreale*) is a perennial with a spreading root system.

SPECIAL INFORMATION: The clinging seeds and stems of catchweed bedstraw can be a nuisance on animals or in clothing.

Habitat

Catchweed bedstraw is often found in uncultivated areas such as along fencerows, under trees, or in brushy areas. From there, the plant can spread into gardens, fields, ornamental plantings, and other cultivated sites.

Management Options

Non-Chemical Management

~ Cultivation (rototilling or hoeing) will effectively eliminate plants.

Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!

Chemical Management

IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides

Apply according to label directions. Glyphosate products should be applied as spot treatments only! Not a problem in healthy established turf. NOTE: Some ingredients listed here are only available in combination. Read the label carefully on combination products to make sure the product is suitable for your specific situation.

Landscape Areas	Turf Areas	Bare Ground Areas
- glyphosate		- glyphosate

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Images



~ Caption: Catchweed bedstraw leaf whorls
~ Photo by: T. W. Miller



~ Caption: Catchweed bedstraw
~ Photo by: T. W. Miller



~ Caption: Catchweed bedstraw
~ Photo by: T.W. Miller



~ Caption: *Leaves and stems*
~ Photo by: *J.A. Kropf*



~ Caption: *Leaves and stems*
~ Photo by: *Washington Noxious Weed Control Board*



~ Caption: *Catchweed bedstraw fruits*
~ Photo by: *D.G. Swan*



~ Caption: *Pulled plant showing roots*
~ Photo by: *J.A. Kropf*