Who Am I? – Name the Pest of the Week: ?

A species introuduced from Europe that is now the most common broadleaf weed in western Canada.

Figure 1. Seedlings with 120 degree cotyledon angle

Biology: An annual with slender twining stems, it emerges from seed each year. Germination is from mid-spring into summer. Seedlings can be identified as the cotyledons which are oblong with a rounded top and short stalk, attached at a 120 degree angle between the two cotyledons (Figure 1).

True leaves are a distinctive heart or arrow shape and longer then they are wide (Figure 2). The base has a papery sheath encircling the stem called an ocrea. Leaves are alternate on the stems and internodes are long. Mature plants may extend trailing stems up to 1.3 meters or longer.

Flowers are produced from mid-summer into fall, and these are inconspicuous, greenish-white in colour, and borne in the leaf axils. They form in clusters on elongated stems up to 6 cm long.

Herbicide Resistance: Herbicide resistance is known in a number of countries. Alberta it has been confirmed resistant to a number of ALS inhibitors (Group 2) including florasulam, thifensulfuron-methyl and tribenuron-methyl.

Keys for Identification: Cotyledons are set at 120 degree angle with true leaves alternate and shaped like an arrow. At the base of the petiole there is an ocrea.

Similar Weeds: Occasionally mistaken for Field Bindweed, it lacks the large flowers of bindweed and unlike bindweed buckwheat has a papery sheath or ocrea.

Figure 2. Seedlings with arrowhead shapped leaves

Figure 3. Twining stems with seeds

Weed Act Status: It is a noxious weed in Manitoba.

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