

Common Chickweed (*Stellaria Media*)

Common chickweed (*Stellaria media*): is an annual, or winter annual of European origin. It is noted for multiple emergence flushes and resistance to Group 2 herbicide products which complicates weed control.

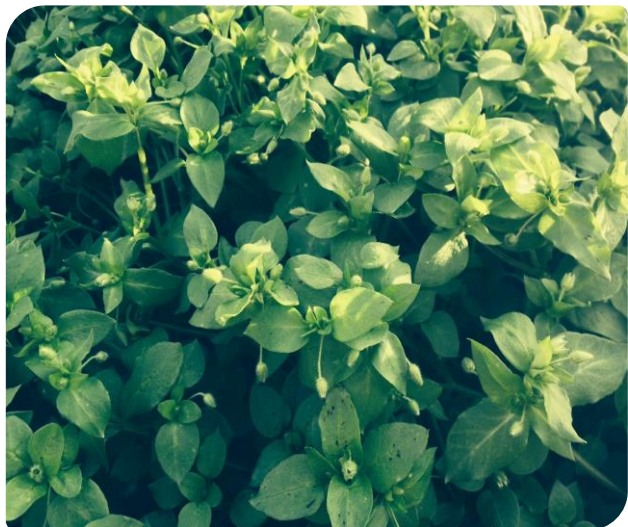


Figure 1. Dense winter annual patch

The cotyledon is distinctive being ovate and constricted at the tip. The leaves are hairless, opposite, ovate to oblong in shape and have pointed tips. The leaf stalks or petioles have a distinct row of small hairs. The plant has a bright green overall color.

Chickweed has prostrated spreading stems which can root at the nodes. Later a distinctive line of fine white hairs will be apparent on one side of stem. The roots are fibrous but shallow.

The flowers are white and small about 6 mm across with five deeply notched petals.

Keys for Identification: The distinctive line of hairs on one side of petiole and the ovate cotyledons with the constricted tip are the key identifying characteristics.

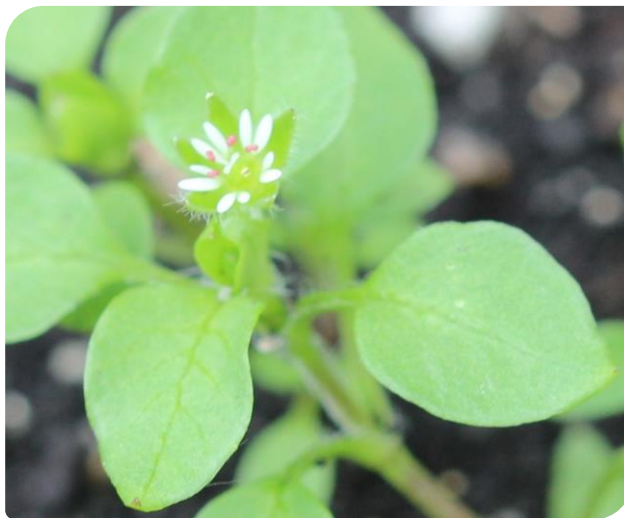


Figure 2. Flower

Similar Plants: Grass-leaved stitchwort (*Stellaria graminea*) can be distinguished by its square stems. Mouse-ear chickweed (*Cerastium vulgatum*) is a perennial with hairy stems and hairy stalkless leaves. Field chickweed (*Cerastium arvense*) is a perennial but can be distinguished by its larger flowers, 15 to 20 mm across.



Figure 3. Spring seedlings