

## Wild Buckwheat (*Polygonum convolvulus*)

**Wild buckwheat** (*Polygonum convolvulus*) was introduced from Europe but is now the most common broadleaf weed in Western Canada.



**Figure 1.** Seedling 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 are oblong with a rounded top and short stalk. They are also attached with a 120 degree angle between the two cotyledons (Figure 1).

True leaves are a distinctive heart or arrow shape and longer than they are wide. The base has a papery sheath 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 are inconspicuous, greenish-white in colour, and borne in the leaf axils. They form in clusters on elongate stems up to 6 cm long.

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

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

**Similar Plants:** 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 shaped leaves



**Figure 3.** Twining growth habit of wild buckwheat