

2017 Weed Identification Series



Wild Buckwheat

Summer annual vine that is common in annual cropping systems and disturbed non-crop areas. Can increase harvest time in crops and is a host for several crop diseases.

Leaves: Heart-shaped leaves 1.0-2.5 in long that alternate along the stem. Basal lobes point towards the stem and the tip is elongated and slender.

Stem: Vines can be 8 to 60 in long. While young plants look upright, vines develop as plants mature and grow over other plants/objects. Stems have an ocrea (membranous sheath) where the leaf attaches to the stem (node).

Flower: Flowers lack petals, but have 5 white to greenish 0.2 in long sepals in small clusters at the base of leaves or stem tips. Plants bloom from June – August.

Similar Plants: This plant is often confused with field bindweed (vine-like perennial). Wild buckwheat can be distinguished by its annual root system, presence of an ocrea at each node and small flowers. Wild Buckwheat leaves are also heart-shaped compared to field bindweed's arrowhead shaped leaves. Morninglory species can also be confused with this species as they are annuals with heart-shaped leaves, but flowers are large and not white.