



White Cockle Photo property of Government of Manitoba

White cockle was introduced from Eurasia and is often confused with bladder campion (not hairy, not sticky) or night-flowering catchfly (hairy, upper stems sticky), white cockle is not sticky on any part of the plant. It is a short-lived perennial (sometimes biennial) native to Europe. Plants are either male or female, so not all plants produce seed.

White cockle prefers full-sun and rich, well-drained soils. Hayfields are a frequent habitat of this invasive plant – compounding the problem as weed seed gets distributed in baled forage.

Identification: Stems are hairy, grow 30 to 120 cm tall, and can be erect or spread laterally. There can be several stems per plant – crowded plants branch in the upper stems. Stems are swollen at the nodes. Leaves are opposite, hairy, and slightly oval-shaped with pointed tips. Basal leaves and upper stem leaves are smaller. Flowers are numerous, fragrant and arranged in spreading clusters. Flowers have 5 notched petals and only open in the evening.

Control: Cultivation: Stem and root pieces can sprout to form new plants; therefore cultivation will usually spread an infestation. Mechanical: Frequent mowing will reduce seed production. Chemical: There are chemicals available to control white cockle. Contact a crop protection specialist for recommendations on control of this species.