



## Weed of The Week

### Carpetweed (*Mollugo verticillata*.)

Just as the name suggests, this week's weed of the week would not be the best weed to have in your vegetable garden or cornfield! Carpetweed is thought to be a native plant of South America, but its true origins are not completely known. Traditionally this weed is known for its tropical growth habit, but it has become adaptable over time to north America and now has become established as far north as southern Canada. Carpetweed is a summer annual that grows well in well-drained disturbed soils such as gardens, roadsides, waste areas, lawns, and even crop fields. Once soils warm to 65°F + this plant will germinate and start forming its low-growing mat-forming structures. Germination is fast and growth is fast reaching 2 feet across in a matter of a few days. Carpetweed only grows to heights of 5 inches or less and can be easily identified by its smooth green stems and long narrow leaves that have a pinkish bulge where it connects to the main growing point. Reproduction is by seed and usually takes place in mid-summer and continues into early fall. Carpetweed forms a small white star-shaped flower formed in axillary clusters of 2-5 flowers per stalk. This plant is dependent on pollinators for proper pollination and seed production. Each flower contains a capsule with approximately 35 seeds per capsule. Controlling this weed can be done by hand pulling easily, or deep tillage. Mulching in gardens is another effective method of control. For lawn management, establishing a strong grass stand is critical but the use of 2-4 D or dicamba-based products can be effective as well.

