



*Silene latifolia*

WA – Class C Noxious Weed

## White Cockle

White Champion

**Family:** Caryophyllaceae

**Origins:** Native to Europe and Northern Africa, White Cockle, has become widespread and locally common in North America. It was first recorded in the United States on the East Coast in 1923.

**Range:** Found throughout much of the United States and southern Canada. In Washington, infestations are more dense east of the Cascades.

**Habitat:** Commonly found in grasslands cultivated fields, roadsides, pastures, grass embankments, and waste places. White Cockle prefers full sun and well-drained soils.

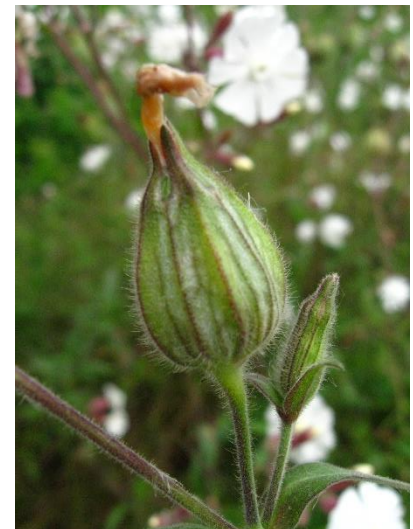
**Impact:** White Cockle can be a serious problem in small grains, alfalfa, clover, and grass seed fields. The seeds are difficult to separate from commercially produced clover or alfalfa seed. In Washington, White Cockle is a big problem for timothy growers. It reproduces by seed and vegetatively from short root stalks. Male and female flowers are on different plants; each female plant may produce up to 24,000 seeds, while male plants do not produce seed.

**Description:** White Cockle is a deciduous biennial to perennial plant that grows 1.5 to 3.5 feet tall. Stems are hairy, jointed, and may be spreading or upright. Hairy, simple leaves are light green when young and dark green when mature. Lower basal leaves are stalked, while upper opposite stem leaves are stalkless.

The fragrant flowers are around 1 inch in diameter and have 5 five white to pink petals. Petals are deeply notched with tiny ears on the sides. The flowers open in the evening and close by noon. Flowers may be solitary or in clusters, and bloom from June to September.

**Common Look-Alikes:** Bladder Campion, Night-Flowering Catchfly.

\* *White Cockle is not known to be toxic.*



## Integrated Pest Management - Control Methods

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) combines various methods such as mechanical, cultural, biological, and chemical controls to manage pests. IPM offers the possibility of improving the efficiency of pest control while reducing its negative environmental impacts. For more information, see the Cowlitz County Noxious Weed's IPM Resources & Strategy Guide or contact your local Noxious Weed Control Board to develop a customized IPM plan.

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## Non-Herbicide Control

<b>Mechanical</b> (pulling, cutting, digging, etc.)	Small infestations can be dug out, but the entire root must be removed, monitor the area to remove any new sprouts. Repeat cutting or mowing before flowering will reduce seed production but will not provide long-term control.
<b>Cultural</b>	White Cockle is a sun lover, so if possible, plant taller species to shade it out. Cultivation or deep tillage for regular seedbed preparation will kill many White Cockle plants. However, well-established plants are usually not killed, and tillage will promote seed germination.
<b>Biological</b>	Biological agents are currently not available for White Cockle in Washington State.

## Herbicide Control: Foliar Broadcast Treatment

<b>Dicamba</b> (Banvel, Clarity)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply in early spring. <b>Remarks:</b> Repeat applications may be necessary; avoid drift to sensitive crops; refer to label for grazing restrictions; do not apply near water.
<b>Metsulfuron</b> (Escort, MSM)	<b>Timing:</b> Apply after weeds emerge before flowering. <b>Remarks:</b> Do not allow spray to drift to sensitive crops; apply only to pasture, rangeland, and non-crop sites; application sites differ between products; for best results, use a surfactant; do not apply near water.

\* Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board does not endorse any product or brand name. Brand names are listed as an example only. Other commercial products may contain the listed active chemical for herbicide control. Always read and follow the safety protocols and rate recommendations on the herbicide label. **The Label is The Law.**

This control sheet includes excerpts from the Written Findings of the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board (WSNWCB), [nwcb.wa.gov](http://nwcb.wa.gov). Herbicide information was gathered from: *NPRO. (2015). White Cockle.*  
<http://npic.orst.edu/NPRO/#>