

# TACKLING Hedge Bindweed

*(Calystegia sepium)*

Invasive species have significant impacts on the environment, human health, infrastructure and the economy in the Metro Vancouver region.

Hedge bindweed, also known as morning glory, is a familiar sight from spring through fall in urban parks and gardens in Metro Vancouver. It is found twining around other plants and structures, often forming a tangled mass. It is a persistent plant that spreads by seeds, as well as underground stems and roots that can resprout from fragments left in the soil.

## IMPACTS

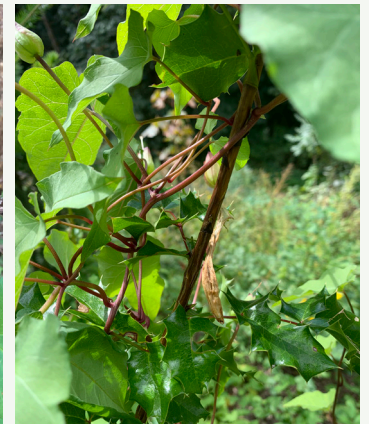
Hedge bindweed can quickly overwhelm gardens, weighing down branches or stems of other plants, sometimes causing breakage. It often grows after soil disturbance from gardening or landscaping, threatening newly installed plants or structures.

## IDENTIFICATION

- **Lifecycle:** Perennial, twining around other plants or structures in a counter clockwise direction
- **Stems:** Round, branching, up to 4 metres tall
- **Leaves:** On opposite sides of the stem, thin, arrow- or heart-shaped with pointed tips and distinct lobes at the bottom of each leaf
- **Flowers:** White, funnel-shaped, 5-7 centimetres across, bloom from May to September, open in the morning and close later in the day
- **Seeds:** Dark seeds are contained in egg-shaped capsules



Leaves with lobes and pointed tips  
CREDIT: ISCMV



Stems twining around an Oregon grape shrub  
CREDIT: ISCMV



Open flower  
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Closed flower with two bracts visible at the base  
CREDIT: ISCMV

## PREVENTION AND CONTROL

To prevent further spread across the region and beyond, it is best not to purchase, trade or grow hedge bindweed. If hedge bindweed is already present in a garden, it is critical to prevent the plant from invading adjacent parks and natural areas. Effective invasive plant management typically involves a variety of control methods. The following table summarizes the recommended techniques for controlling hedge bindweed on private property or where permission has been granted by the land owner or manager. Other methods may be used by professionals.

CONTROL STRATEGY	TECHNIQUES	SUITABLE SITES	NOTES
Manual	<b>Pulling new seedlings</b>	Sites with plants that have at least 5-6 leaves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• May damage other plants and structures the plant is growing around</li> <li>• May take many years to control</li> </ul>
	<b>Digging and removing underground stems and roots</b>	Small sites, planting sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any plant pieces left in the soil may re-sprout</li> <li>• May take many years to control</li> </ul>

Regardless of control method, monitoring and follow-up will be necessary to control plants that were missed. It is best to deal with any re-growth quickly and expect a long-term commitment.

## How Can You Help?

- Do not purchase, trade or grow hedge bindweed. Check seed mixtures carefully.
- Control invasive plants and replace them with a non-invasive alternative. Check out [growgreenguide.ca](http://growgreenguide.ca) for suggestions.
- Do not place invasive plants in your backyard composter as the temperature will not become hot enough to destroy the seeds and roots.
- To reduce the spread of invasive species, dispose of yard waste and soil appropriately. Visit your municipality's website for more information.
- Download the '[Report Invasives BC](#)' app to identify and report invasive species.
- Join a stewardship group and help remove invasive species from local parks.

For the complete set of best management practices for hedge bindweed, and other key invasive species, visit [MetroVancouver.org](http://MetroVancouver.org) and search 'Invasive Species'.



Hedge bindweed growing around a fence

CREDIT: ISCMV