

Common chickweed

Stellaria media

Description

Often used as food and in medicine to treat skin conditions and pulmonary diseases.

Habit

Winter annual, mat-forming, grows up to 12 in tall.

Leaves

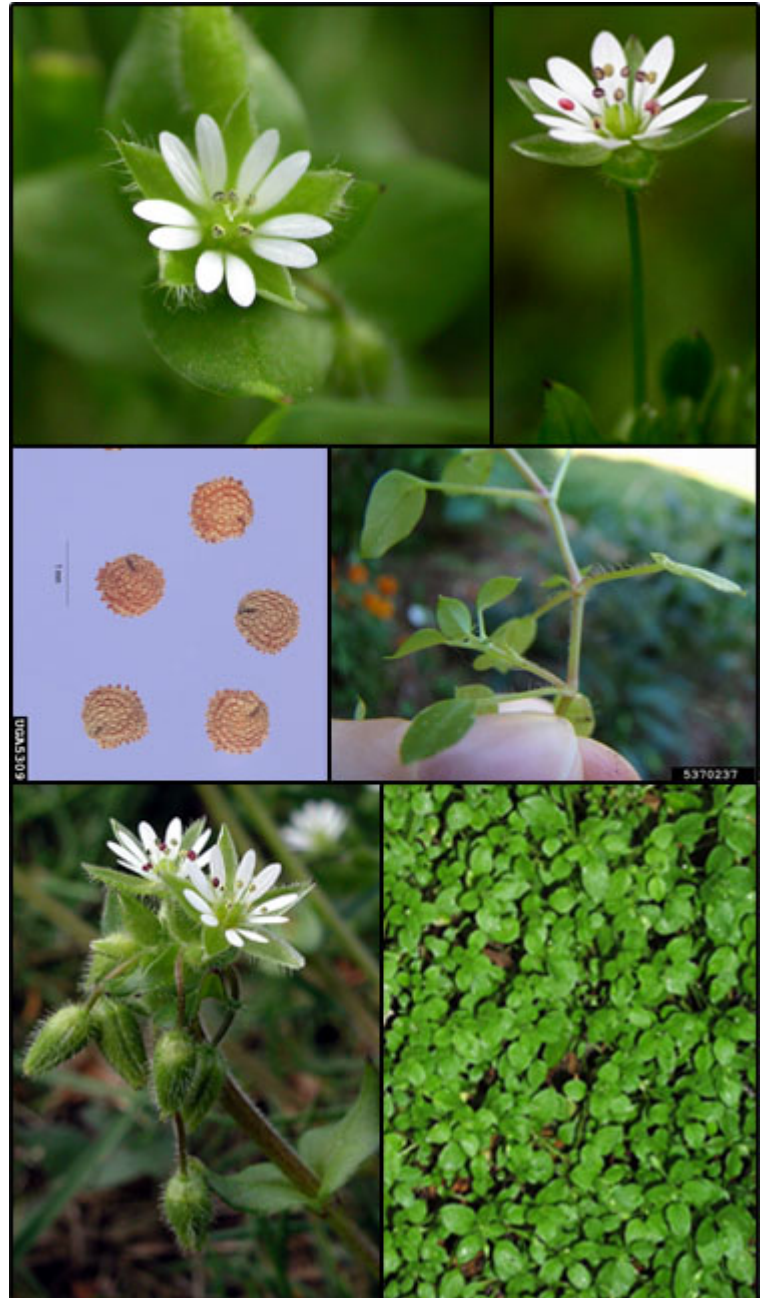
Small, oval to elliptic in shape, opposite, 0.5 to 1.5 in in length, light green in color, smooth or hairy towards base and petioles.

Stems

Light green in color with hairs in vertical rows; grows prostrate along the ground and rooting at the nodes, with the upper portion erect or ascending and freely branching.

Flowers

Star-shaped, small, 5 petals that are white in color, deeply lobed giving the appearance of 10 petals, grows alone or in small clusters at the end





of stems; blooms February through December.

Fruits and Seeds

Fruit is an oval, straw colored capsule that contains tiny reddish brown seeds. Seed output can be from 600 to 15,000 per plant.

Habitat

Native to Eurasia. Found in disturbed lands, cultivated fields, waste places, trails, roadsides, forests, and gardens.

Reproduction

Vegetatively through a fibrous root system and by seeds.

Similar

Big chickweed/Mouseear chickweed (*Cerastium fontanum*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand pull or dig; remove entire plant and root system; dispose of all plant parts because shoots have the ability to re-root. Effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or triclopyr. Follow label and state requirements.

Credits

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