

Field Mouse-ear Chickweed and Common Mouse-ear Chickweed

Rex Warren



FIELD MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED—
Cerastium arvense— Showing entire plant
with roots, individual stem with flowers, and
seed. Seed enlarged 12 diameters.

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Field Mouse-Ear Chickweed

Cerastium arvense

FIELD MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED reproduces from seed, creeping stems, and slender rootstocks. It is found in pastures in Western Oregon and is native in the mountains. It may grow erect from 3 to 6 inches high or close to the ground, often forming a dense mass. The leaves are lance-shaped, from $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ inch long, generally wider at the base than at the tip, and are borne clasping the stem in pairs opposite each other along the slender stalks. Leaves are generally smooth, but occasionally somewhat hairy, with minute glands along the surface. Flowers are about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch across, showy white with deeply notched petals. They are borne on the tips of small, frequently-branched stems. Often the flowers are produced in groups of three, each flower on a separate, slender stem. The seed is brown and very small, about $\frac{1}{30}$ of an inch long, and flat on the side. The back is curved and rough, due to irregular rows of cone-shaped tips.

Common Mouse-Ear Chickweed

Cerastium vulgatum

Common mouse-ear chickweed is similar in many respects to field mouse-ear chickweed. It reproduces by seed and by rooting at the nodes of the stem. It generally grows in mats, instead of erect as field mouse-ear chickweed occasionally does. Flowers are borne in compact clusters on short stalks. Stems and leaves are covered with many silky hairs. This is the most readily distinguishable characteristic separating the two weeds. Seed is about $\frac{1}{50}$ of an inch long and similar to field mouse-ear chickweed, except that it is smaller and the cone-shaped tips on the surface are not so regular in shape and are more like short ridges than points.

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Control

Lawns—chickweed is more difficult to control in lawns than either dandelion or plantain. 2,4,5-T sprays have proved more effective on chickweed than have 2,4-D sprays. Repeated sprays of 2,4,5-T



COMMON MOUSE-EAR CHICKWEED—*Cerastium vulgatum*—Showing entire plant with roots, individual stem with flowers, and seed. Seed enlarged 18 diameters.

at 1 pound per acre has controlled this weed. Homeowners should follow instructions on the labels of spray containers for rates of spraying. If labels are not available, the following table can be used:

Pounds of 2,4,5-T per gallon of chemical	Teaspoons of 2,4,5-T per 1,000 square feet of lawn
1	18
2	9
3	6
4	4

The lawn should not be mowed 4 to 6 days before spraying, nor 3 to 4 days after spraying.

Chickweed can be controlled in strawberry fields with 6 pounds of IPC and 1 quart of Dinitro General per acre. (This is the regular dormant spray for annual weed control in strawberries.)

Chickweed can be controlled in grass seed fields with 3 to 4 pounds of IPC or C1 IPC, or 2 pounds Karmex DW. (See Experiment Station Circular of Information 551.)