

Catchweed bedstraw

Galium aparine L

Madder Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Flowers are white and inconspicuously small
- ❑ Stems are square which is a trait usually associated with the Mint family
- ❑ Leaves are linear, with bristly hairs, and in whorls of 6 to 8
- ❑ Stems are weak and get easily tangled around legs or other plants
- ❑ Fruits (seed pods) are covered with fine hooked hair and cling to wool, fur, and clothing
- ❑ Plants will grow to 80 inches long
- ❑ Also known as "Cleavers"



Photos above and below by Mike Haddock,
Kansas Wildflowers & Grasses

Biology and ecology

- An annual plant reproducing by seed
- This plant is a native to North America and has been recorded in every state in the U.S. except Hawaii
- Seeds are mainly spread by animals and people
- Can be a serious weed in cultivated fields but the main problem isn't competition with crops but difficulty in harvesting when bedstraw becomes tangled with the crop or equipment



Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property; do not overgraze pastures

Biological - No known biological control

Cultural - Planting a competitive crop or ground cover will help

Mechanical - If only a few plants pulling or digging may be the best option, regular mowing at a low height can be effective

Chemical - Several herbicides are on the market that will control bedstraw; easier to treat when plants are young: refer to the [PNW Weed Management Handbook](#) for specific chemical recommendations



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Where found – Scattered all across areas of Stevens County