

Broadleaf & Buckhorn plantain

Plantago major L & *Plantago lanceolata* L

Plantain Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Broadleaf P. has broad, oval leaves and a waxy surface 3 - 7" long
- ❑ Buckhorn P. leaves are linear to lanceolate and range from 4 - 12" long
- ❑ Leaves on both plants are basal only
- ❑ Both have inconspicuous small white flowers
- ❑ Broadleaf flowering stems grow 5 - 12" tall
- ❑ Buckhorn flowering stems grow up to 18" tall
- ❑ Plants are similar in appearance with the shape and length of leaves being the main difference

Biology and ecology

- Both are perennials with a fibrous root system
- Both plants are native to Europe & are believed to have been introduced by settlers; one common name is "white man's foot" as the plantains were found wherever settlers traveled
- Usually associated with turf grass but seen along driveways, lawns, some pastures, and roadsides
- These and many plantains have a long medicinal and herbal history

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property; monitor land for new weeds

Biological - No known biological control

Cultural - No single procedure has been successful in controlling plantain in turf grass; early removal of new seedlings has worked when practiced diligently

Mechanical - Mowing is not effective since the leaves are so close to the ground and flowering heads rapidly regrow; digging out plantain plants must be done regularly for several years to be successful.

Chemical - widely varied recommendations by site; refer to the [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) for specific chemical recommendations

Where found - Scattered all across Stevens County; at this time, usually not a major problem, but starting to show up in certain crops such as alfalfa; *P. major* is a problem in turf.



Broadleaf p., James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, www.forestryimages.org



Bottom 2 photos of Buckhorn p. by John D. Byrd, Mississippi State University, www.forestryimages.org