

White cockle

Silene latifolia ssp. alba

Pink Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Flowers white occasionally pink with 5 lobed petals
- ❑ Greenish-white "claws" at the base of the flower petals
- ❑ Leaves are opposite and hairy
- ❑ Plants can reach a height of 10-24 inches
- ❑ Flowers open at night and have a pleasant odor
- ❑ Stems are hairy and may become almost woody when mature
- ❑ Has a tap root and lateral roots

Biology and ecology

- It can be a biennial or perennial
- It is a native of Europe
- Reproduces mainly by seed but has lateral roots that when cultivated can spread by the fragments
- Flowers from May through October
- It grows on road sides, in waste areas, forage crops and often in pastures
- Found in most of the U.S. and southern Canada
- Recognized synonyms include: *Lychnis alba*, *Silene alba*, *Silene pratensis*.

Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property

Biological - No known intentionally released biological agents in the U.S., but there is a fungus which appears to affect it

Cultural - Good vegetative cover helps but does not prevent establishment or spread

Mechanical - Cutting before it flowers will help prevent seed production

Chemical - Several effective at label rates but should be treated pre-bud to avoid seed production; may require repeat treatments to kill root systems

Where found - Found throughout Stevens County, around barns, roadsides, pastures and waste areas.



Wisconsin State Herbarium Robert W. Freckmann



Wisconsin State Herbarium Kenneth J. Sytsma

