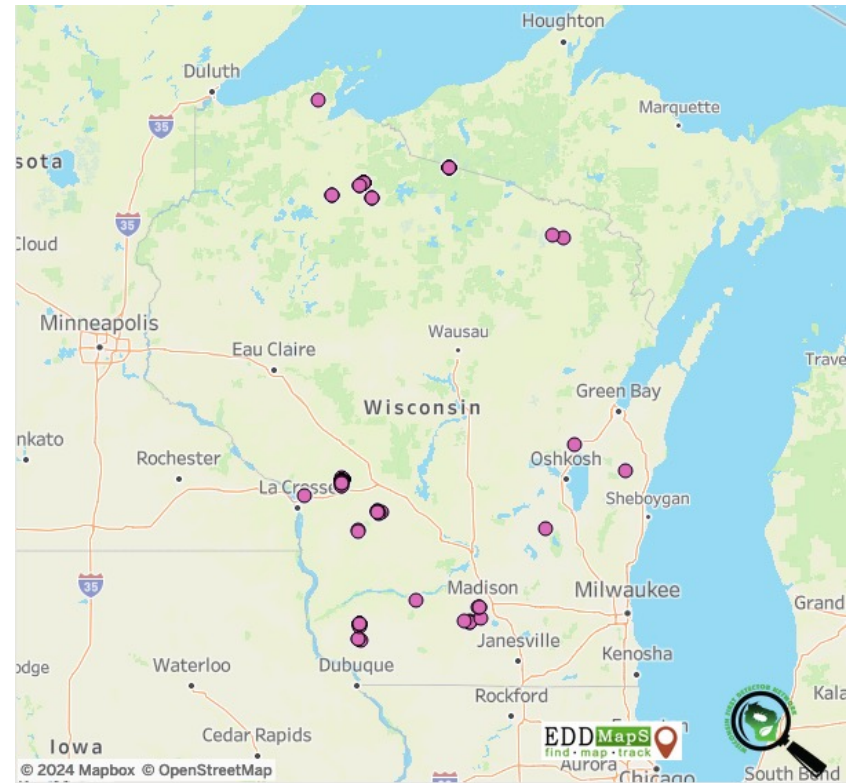


White bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*)



- Smooth, shiny herb with whorled leaves and numerous tiny white flowers
- Habitats it invades:
 - Grasslands
 - Roadsides
- Status
 - Wisconsin: Restricted
 - Not regulated in neighboring states





White bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*)

Leaves whorled, simple

- Leaves to 1" long, oblong-elliptic
- Leaf margins have tiny, sharp teeth; leaf tip has a small tooth
- Stems are smooth; often sprawling



White bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*)



Flower/fruit

- Flowers are small, white, with 4, pointed petals, 4 stamens
- Ovary is inferior
- Hundreds of flowers borne in a widely branched cluster; June-Sept.
- Fruit is smooth, round



White bedstraw look alike

White bedstraw (*Galium mollugo*) is also known as smooth bedstraw or false baby's breath. It most closely resembles other bedstraws (*Galium* spp.) and baby's breath (*Gypsophila* spp.).

How to differentiate from baby's breath

White bedstraw has **4-petaled flowers** and **whorls of 6-8 leaves**. **Baby's breath** has **5-petaled flowers** and **opposite leaves**.

How to differentiate from other *Galium* species

Galium spp. are differentiated from each other based on a combination of characteristics including number of leaves in a whorl, hairiness, and number of flowers.

White bedstraw's combination of **numerous flowers with smooth ovaries, smooth stem, and whorls of 6-8 leaves** differentiate it from other *Galium* species.



Mark Renz

Flowering white bedstraw

White bedstraw look alike



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Baby's breath (*Gypsophila paniculata*) (I). Note the **five-petaled flowers** and **opposite leaves**.



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Cleavers (*Galium aparine*) (N), one of the most common **native** bedstraws. Note the **prickly stems and leaves**, and **fewer flowers**.

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