

# Wisconsin Weed Identification

## common chickweed - *Stellaria media*

**Life History:** Annual weed that reproduces by seed. Germinates in fall or spring. Note stems can re-root and cause spread.

**Leaves:** Opposite, oval leaves, 0.3-1.2" long that are pointed at the tip. Light green and smooth or slightly hairy.

**Stem:** Many branches that spread horizontally. While initially small, dense patches can form with stems up to 2' long. Upper portions of the stem may be upright. Stem is smooth except for a single band of hairs on one side.



**Flower/Fruit:** Small white flowers with 5 petals (2 lobes) grow to 0.25" across. Petals are deeply lobed and thus may appear to have 10 petals. Bloom from early spring to autumn.

**Similar Plants:** Several other chickweeds are common to Wisconsin including **mouse-ear chickweed** and **giant chickweed**. Mouse-ear chickweed has very hairy leaves and stems with more pointed leaves and giant chickweed leaves and flowers are 3-5 times bigger than common chickweed.

