

Weeds: Speedwell: *Veronica spp.*



Photo by: G. Stahnke

Use IPM (Integrated Pest Management) for most successful weed management.

Family: Scrophulariaceae
Cycle: Annual/Perennial
Plant Type: Broadleaf

Biology

Description: Three of the speedwell species common in the Pacific Northwest are very similar in appearance. Ivyleaf speedwell (*Veronica hederifolia*), Persian speedwell (*V. persica*), and creeping speedwell (*V. filiformis*) are prostrate to weakly upright with small, opposite leaves on short petioles. Persian speedwell is a mat-forming winter annual which roots at the nodes. Leaves are rounded with coarse teeth and the seed capsules are flattened with a notch at the top. Ivyleaf speedwell has lobed leaves with a larger center lobe than the other species. Seed capsules are circular and flattened. Creeping speedwell is an annual to perennial plant that is mat-forming and difficult to eradicate. The rounded leaves are broad and toothed and the seed capsules are hairy. All three species are finely hairy on leaves and stems and have small purplish to blue, four-petaled flowers borne singly in the leaf axils. Speedwells are tolerant of many herbicides, making them difficult to control.

Habitat: Speedwells may be found in many sites. These species may be found in gardens, waste and cultivated areas, and lawns.

Management Options

- Cultivation (rototilling or hoeing) will effectively eliminate plants.
- Chemical management options are outlined in the PNW Weed Management Handbook available through WSU at 1-800-723-1763. There is also information for home gardeners at <http://pep.wsu.edu/hortsense>.