

# WEEDS

Not all Flowers are Friendly

## White Cockle

*Silene pratensis/  
Lychnis alba*



### Identification

- five white, deeply notched flower petals, prominent oval leaves with sticky hairs
- flowers open in the evening

### Biology

- annual, biennial or short-lived perennial from Europe
- it has a taproot up to 1.2 metre deep
- it is invasive in nature and reproduces by seed only

### Control

- monitor your property regularly, control plants early
- use weed-free soil, gravel and wood chips when landscaping

- handpicking and mowing can work, must be done repeatedly
- if using an approved herbicide, always apply as per the label instructions

### Commonly found

- cultivated crops and hay fields
- pastures
- gardens and flower beds

### Quick facts

- an individual plant may produce over 24,000 seeds
- seeds are viable two to three weeks after pollination
- particularly difficult to control in alfalfa fields

### Further information

Transportation and Agriculture Services

780-417-7100

[www.strathcona.ab.ca/tas](http://www.strathcona.ab.ca/tas)

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