

## CHICKWEED — A GREENHOUSE PROBLEM

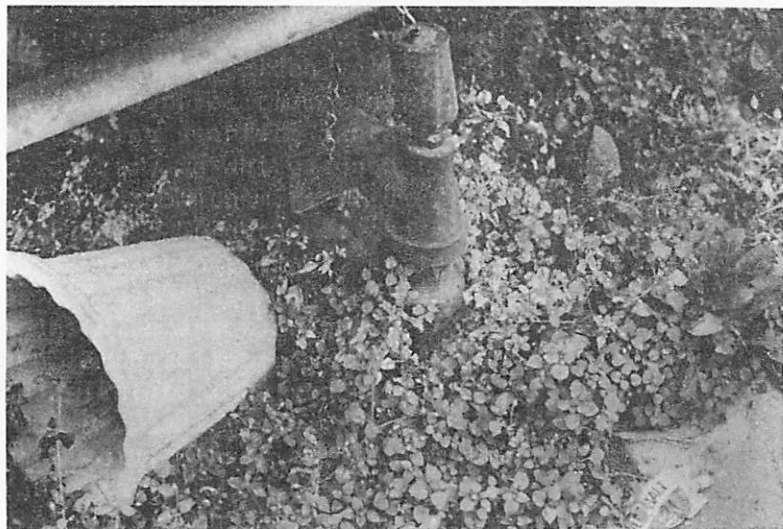
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Common chickweed (*Stellaria media*) is found in most greenhouses. It often appears suddenly in or under benches or in flower pots where it grows to prime size in a short time.

Where does it come from? It is a common weed and produces seed profusely.

Common chickweed prefers cool, moist, shady places. Its spreading roots and stems quickly cover greenhouse areas that provide a favorable environment.

The leaves are bright shiny green; rounded and tapered to a point. The leaves are opposite on green hairy stems. Any node that touches moist soil will take root and develop new plants. Flowers of chickweed are white. Chickweed produces a multitude of seeds which usually scatter all over the place.



Chickweed is also a fine home for spider mites and aphids. Control of these pests should start by not allowing one plant to grow. Only one plant can start an infestation. Be alert. Keep this pest from developing in and about your greenhouses.

Frequent hoeing or pulling is costly and a never ending job once the weed is established. Herbicides in noncrop areas will practically eliminate the weed. Use diuron (Karmex) at 1/2 oz. (1 tbsp.) plus diquat at 1/3 oz. (2 tsp.) per gallon of water. This can be mixed in a sprinkling can (or very low pressure, coarse nozzle sprayer) and applied only where the weeds are growing. Be certain to keep the spray off heating pipes. Repeat a couple of times and the area may stay weed free for years.