

GROWTH ANALYSIS OF GIANT CHICKWEED (MYOSOTAN AQUATICUM) IN ALFALFA.
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Giant chickweed (*Myosotan aquaticum*) has been confirmed as a weedy species in pastures, forage legumes (alfalfa) and turfgrass areas in several Wisconsin counties. A study was conducted in the field to model giant chickweed growth.. The experiment was a split plot design with four replications. Sub-plot treatments were weeks of giant chickweed growth and whole-plot treatments were bare ground or established alfalfa. Giant chickweed plants were grown under greenhouse conditions and transplanted into the field on June 12, 2001. Giant chickweed above ground parts were harvested weekly and relative growth rate, leaf area, leaf area ratio, and biomass accumulation were determined. Relative growth rate was analyzed using ANOVA procedure of SAS and means separation was conducted using Fisher's protected LSD test. Leaf area, leaf area ratio and biomass were subjected to regression analysis. Relative growth rates were greatest with early season growth of giant chickweed and daily average temperatures were correlated with reduced relative growth rate values. Giant chickweed biomass and leaf area increased, but leaf area ratio decreased over time.