

Common mallow

Malva neglecta Wallr.



Life cycle

Spreading annual or biennial.

Leaves

Cotyledons are heart-shaped with three main veins. Leaves are alternate, rounded with a heart-shaped base, palmately veined and hairy, with long, slender, hairy petioles. Margins are round-toothed and obscurely lobed.

Stems

Spreading and partly erect stems are branched from the base and up to 1 foot tall.

Flowers and fruit

Flowers have five white and purple-tinged petals; flowers are formed on stalks in the leaf axils. Fruit are capsules that resemble buttons or cheese wheels. Each capsule contains 12 to 15 compartments; each compartment has one reddish brown to black, flattened, rounded seed with a notch.

Reproduction

Seeds and stem fragments.



Common mallow seedling.



Common mallow flower.



Common mallow fruit.

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Common mallow plant.



Common mallow leaf.

Similar weeds

Venice mallow (*Hibiscus trionum* L.)

Differs by having leaves with three distinct, coarsely toothed lobes that may be further divided into as many as seven lobes; and pale yellow flowers with a purple base.



Venice mallow seedling.