

Evaluated but not
listed

impact risk level

Malva parviflora

Malvaceae

Cheeseweed/ Little mallow



MAPA5

KEY
CHARACTERISTICS

growth

Erect winter annual. The mature plant forms dense bushes that trail along the ground or grow upright, 1-4 ft (30 - 120 cm) tall. Under good conditions this plant resembles a large shrub.

flower

Petals are small, white or light pink, about a 1/5 inch long. Flowers are held in clusters in the leaf axils. Blooms between March and July.

leaves

Seed leaves are distinctly heart shaped and tinged red. Real leaves are roundish with wavy shallow toothed margins and a red spot at the leaf base; up to two and a half inches wide.

fruit

It is called Cheeseweed because the fruit looks like a cheddar cheese wheel.

stems

It has a tough, woody stem.



flower color

Elevation:
Unknown

Ecotypes Invaded:
Unknown

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

Occurs in all types of soil and is common in disturbed areas along roadsides, in wasteplaces, around farm buildings and sheep yards and along watercourses.

M. parviflora reproduces herbaceously. Most mallows have a seed bank, of which some can survive for very long periods. Seeds can mature in as little as 64 days after germination.

In commercial agricultural crops, *M. parviflora* can be a reservoir for plant viruses including alfalfa mosaic virus, cotton leaf crumble virus, tomato yellow leaf curl, and tomato spotted wilt tospovirus. *M. parviflora* can also be a host for whiteflies and thrips, which can transport these viruses from the weeds to the surrounding crops.



****** *M. parviflora* has a similar appearance to common mallow, *M. neglecta*. These species can be distinguished by comparing the flower petals and fruit shape. *M. neglecta* petals are longer than those of *M. parviflora*, and the fruit of *M. neglecta* are smooth while the fruit of *M. parviflora* is wrinkled. ******