Other common names: Alfilaree, alfilaria, common storks bill, pin clover, stork’s bill, etc.

Scientific name: *Erodium cicutarium*

Family: Geraniaceae

Description: Redstem filaree is a low-growing, mounding plant with feathery leaves and small pink flowers. It flourishes in vacant fields in early spring when there is more precipitation than usual.

Leaves: Finely divided and feather-like; hairy.

Stems: Range from 1 inch to 2 feet long, spreading or upright, generally from a rosette (ground-hugging form) growing along the soil surface (see photo at right). Stems are branched, hairy, and reddish.

Flowers: Small, purplish-pink, with five petals; usually found in clusters of two or more per stem. Blooms from early spring to summer.

Seeds: Form in groups of five and have long protrusions resembling a stork’s beak (see photo on back). The seeds split away at maturity and can lodge in socks, shoes or animal fur.

Roots: Shallow, thick white taproot with fibrous lateral roots.

Native to: Europe; naturalized throughout the United States

Where it grows: Roadsides, lawns, gardens, vacant lots, pavement cracks and other disturbed or unmanaged sites

Life cycle: Winter annual (sprouts in fall) or biennial

Reproduction: Reproduces by seed
**Control methods:** Focus on preventing production of seed to control this common weed.

**Mechanical:** Dig, hoe or pull young seedlings. Plants that are mowed will regrow. Mature plants are difficult to pull.

**Cultural:** Thick mulches can help prevent seed germination. Plant desirable vegetation that will shade the area and reduce germination and growth of young plants.

**Biological:** None.

**Chemical:** Apply broadleaf-selective herbicides on young plants. Pre-emergence herbicides can be used to manage existing seed in the soil.

**References:**


