

Twin cress, willow weed and winged thistle

Twin cress (*Coronopus didymus*)

- Summary** Widespread. Common in Southland and the North Island. Annual.
- Identification** Seedling is a rosette, then has weak sprawling stems that carry tender leaves, small flowers and double fruits. Has a strong smell when crushed.
- Characteristics** Can be dense in many autumn sown pastures causing milk to be tainted when cows eat it.



Willow weed (*Polygonum persicaria*)

- Summary** Prefers moist well-aerated ground. Annual.
- Identification** Its leaves are similar in shape to those of the willow tree, with a distinctive brown marking in their centre. It has small pinkish flowers and stems with a reddish tinge. Water pepper is often mistaken for willow weed.
- Characteristics** Germinates in the spring and dies in the autumn. Can grow across the ground or upright when amongst other plants.



Winged thistle (*Carduus tenuiflorus*)

- Summary** Widespread. Common in stock camp areas. Annual.
- Identification** Young plants have flat broad leaves. They form upright stems that can grow to 1.5 m. Produces small purple flowers.
- Characteristics** Establishes in autumn and flowers in spring. New pasture can be badly smothered by winged thistle when they are dense. Regarded as one of the more difficult thistles to control. Is difficult to differentiate from slender winged thistle.

