

COMMON PLANTAIN

Plantago lanceolata

HERBACEOUS

Family Plantaginaceae**Origin** Europe and Asia

Description A perennial herb growing to a height of 0.8 m and a spread of 0.5 m. It is adaptable to most soils and positions, is drought and frost resistant ¹. It mostly prefers sunny, or semi shaded disturbed soils and moist areas. Common on track and road sides ⁸.

Stems/Leaves Simple leaves arranged in a basal rosette. Lanceolate to elliptic in shape and margins with a few minute teeth. Five prominent parallel veins ³. Long, angular, leafless flower stems ⁸.

Flowers Minute, flowers appearing from spring to autumn. Yellowish white anthers and brownish corollas. Flowers occur in a terminal cylindrical spike ¹. May cause hayfever ⁸.

Fruit/Seed Capsule 3-4 mm long ¹ that appears sticky when wet. Dispersal via animals, machinery and wind. Seed remains viable up to 60 years ⁸.

Root system Taproot and fibrous roots ⁸.

Removal techniques

Manual Insert a knife into the soil and work it all the way around the root-ball of the weed to loosen it from the soil. Take hold of the plant at the base and pull it up ²¹. When removing the plant ensure that most of the tap root is cut out ⁸.

Similar Native Species

Plantago varia: Leaves 10-20 cm long, 5-10 times as long as broad, slender, erect, covered in soft furry hairs. Leaves with 3 main veins and scattered teeth. Flowers in slender spikes, on scapes to 25 cm long. Scapes covered in whitish hairs ⁹.

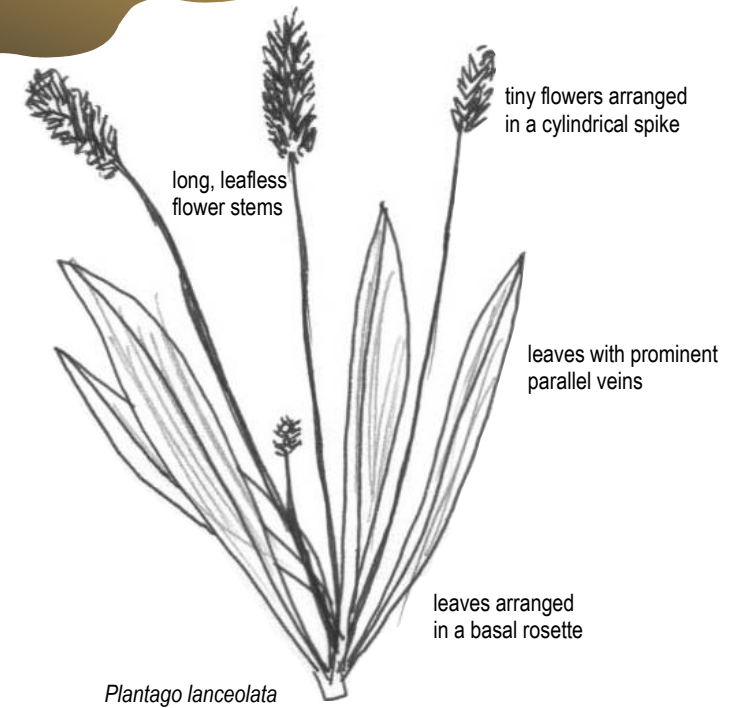
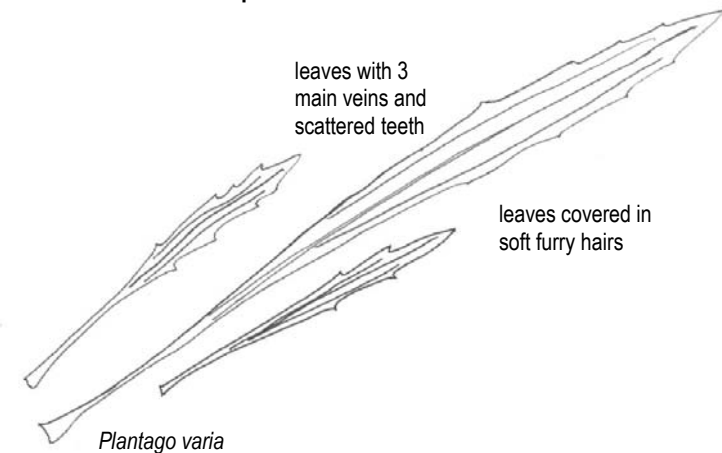
Notes

When disturbed mechanically rapid germination occurs. Seeds germinate after fire events and re-shoots from taproot ⁸.

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