White campion (white cockle)
*Silene latifolia* Poir.

**Life cycle**
Annual, biennial or short-lived perennial.

**Leaves**
Seedling leaves initially develop from a basal rosette. Basal leaves are attached to the stem by petioles; stem leaves are without petioles. Leaves are opposite, softly hairy with a grayish tinge, and lance-shaped to oval with a pointed tip and smooth to slightly wavy leaf margins.

**Stems**
Soft, hairy stems are erect or semierect at maturity, and up to 3 feet tall. Stems have swollen nodes and often branch at the base.
White campion continued

**Flowers and fruit**
Male and female flowers are produced on separate plants. Flowers have five showy, white petals, each with a deep V-shaped notch at the tip. Just below the petals are fused and inflated sepals that create a balloonlike appearance. Fruit are light brown, vase-shaped capsules with 10 teeth at the open end. Each capsule contains numerous brown to gray, kidney-shaped seeds.

**Reproduction**
Seeds and root fragmentation.

Opposite leaves of white campion.
White campion continued

Balloonlike sepals of white campion.

Deeply notched petals of white campion.
White campion continued

**Similar weeds**

**Bladder campion**
[S. vulgaris (Moench) Garcke]
Differs by having a strong perennial nature, hairless stems and leaves, and globe-shaped fruiting capsules.

**Nightflowering catchfly** (S. noctiflora L.)
Differs by having an annual habit, sticky hairs on the stems and leaves, flowers containing both male and female organs, and fruiting capsules with six teeth at the open end.

Bladder campion flower.