

Alligator weed (WONS)

Botanical Name: *Alternanthera philoxeroides*

Weed Class: Class 2 Noxious Weed (Notifiable)

Important: *Any person who believes they have located an infestation of Alligator weed, regardless of the area, please notify a Weeds Officer at your Local Control Authority as a matter of urgency!*

Control Options

Chemical Control: You should read the product label and follow all label instructions carefully before using any herbicide. Use a product containing the following active constituent that is registered in NSW to control alligator weed in the particular situation in which you need to use chemical control, eg. In aquatic situations. Consult the product label for detailed information on restrictions on use.

The use of herbicides near water requires care due to their possible environment impacts. Under the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997 a licence is required. Consult with DECC & EPA

- * GLYPHOSATE 360 g/L - Various Trade Names
- * METSULFURON METHYL 600 g/kg - Brushkiller 600 ®

Biological Control: The Alligator weed flea beetle (*Agasicles hygrophila*). The flea beetle has a short life cycle of only 30 days and both adults and larvae feed on alligator weed. It is sensitive to hot dry summers and cold winters. The flea beetle has been released in New Zealand, China and Thailand. In general, plant management impacts are good to excellent.

Description:

Alligator weed is a perennial, herb. There are different forms of this plant which grow on land and in water. Aquatic forms may be free-floating, or rooted and emergent from the water surface. Severe frosts may kill exposed stems.

Stems: Hollow, horizontal stem that produces roots and has shoots that develop into new plants forming dense interwoven mats.

Leaves: Without stalks, dark green, smooth, waxy, 2 - 7 cm long, 5 - 40 mm wide, in pairs opposite each other on the main stems. Veins from the central rib are visible beneath the waxy leaf surface.

Flowers: Silvery white heads 1.2 to 1.4 cm on stalks 2 to 7 cm long growing from between leaves and main stems; produced from January to March.

Dispersal: Fragments of Alligator weed stems are capable of producing new growth. Seed production has not been observed in Australia.

Habitats: Fresh water wetlands, creeks, can grow terrestrially

Local Control Authorities: Far North Coast Weeds 6623 3833, Clarence Valley Council 6643 3820, Coffs Harbour City Council 6648 4000, Bellingen Shire Council 6655 7338, Nambucca Shire Council 6568 2555.

Helpful websites - www.northcoastweeds.org.au - www.weeds.org.au - www.dpi.nsw.gov.au



Photo 1: Alligator weed infestation (NSW DPI)



Photo 2: Opposite leaves (NSW DPI)



Disclaimer: The advice provided in this publication is intended as a source of information only. Always read the label before using any of the products mentioned. The North Coast Weeds Advisory Committee and its employees do not guarantee that the publication is without flaw of any kind or is wholly appropriate for your particular purposes and therefore disclaim all liability for any error, loss or other consequence, which may arise from you relying on any information in this publication.