

Alternanthera philoxeroides

ALLIGATOR WEED

Amaranthaceae

Common Synonyms: *Achyranthes philoxeroides*

FLEPPC Category: 2

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: Yes

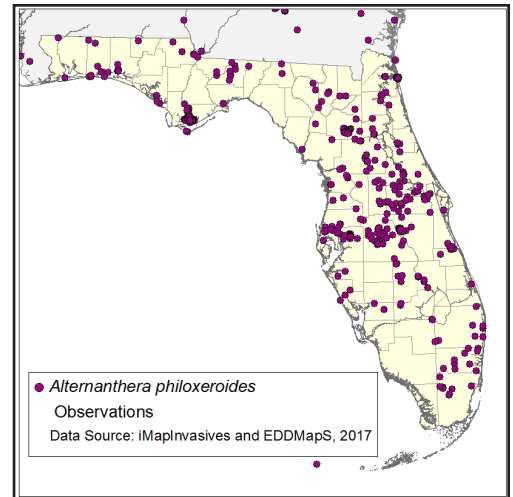
IFAS Assessment

North	PROHIBITED
Central	PROHIBITED
South	PROHIBITED

USDA Hardiness Zone: 7b-11

Growth Habit: Aquatic, Forb/Herb

Origin: South America



Graves Lovell, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bugwood.org

Description: Found throughout Florida, alligator weed is a trailing herb that can grow aquatically. The plant has hollow stems and will have nodes along the stalk where it is able to root. Leaves are opposite, simple, and elliptic with smooth margins. Has small white bushy flowers that are visible during the warm months of the year.

Habitat: Freshwater tidal swamp, slough, floodplain marsh, strand swamp, ponds, row crops, gardens

Florida Introduction Date: 1894

Control Methods: .

Chemical: Imazapyr. Biological: *Agasicles hygrophila* (Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae: Halticinae), *Amylothrips andersoni* (Insecta: Thysanoptera: Phlaeothripidae), *Arcola* (= *Vogtia*) *malloi* (Insecta: Lepidoptera: Pyralidae) (IFAS)

Useful Resources:

IFAS, Assessment of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas. <https://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/assessments/alternanthera-philoxeroides/>. Accessed June 13, 2017.

Dave's Garden. PlantFiles: alligatorweed, *Alternanthera philoxeroides*. <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/32230/#b>. Accessed June 13, 2017.

IFAS. 2011. Integrated Management of Nonnative Plants in Natural Areas of Florida. <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/WG/WG20900.pdf>. Accessed June 13, 2017.

Hofstra, Deborah E., and P. D. Champion. "Herbicide Trials for the Control of Alligatorweed." *Aquatic Plant Management Society* 48 (2010): 79-83. Web. 13 June 2017

Comments: Spreads by dividing rhizomes, tubers, corms or bulbs, not by seed.