

Ruellia simplex

MEXICAN PETUNIA

Acanthaceae

Common Synonyms: *Ruellia brittoniana*, *R. tweediana*

FLEPPC Category: 1

FDACS Listed Noxious Weed: No

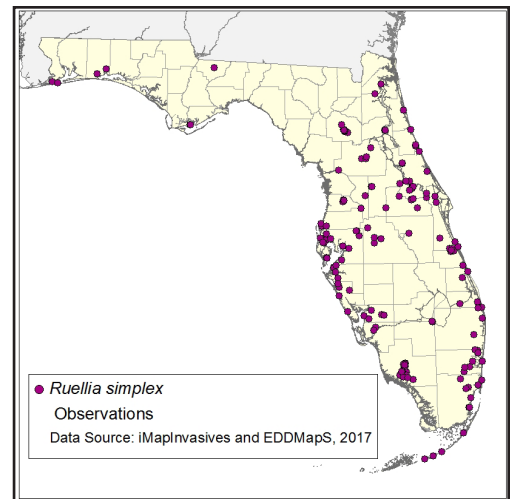
IFAS Assessment

North	INVASIVE
Central	INVASIVE
South	INVASIVE

USDA Hardiness Zone: 8a-11

Growth Habit: Perennial herb

Origin: Mexico, Western South America, Antilles



Brenda Herring

Description: Perennial herb, to 1 m tall. Stems green or purple. Leaves dark green, opposite, lance-shaped, about 15-30 cm long and 1-2 cm wide, veins prominent below, margins smooth or wavy. Flowers pedunculate, trumpet shaped, 4-8 cm in diameter, solitary or borne in clusters at the tips of the stems, usually purple, but white and pink forms exist. Fertile forms have cylindrical capsules containing 4-28 seeds. Capsules have explosive dehiscence with seeds spreading long distances.

Habitat: wide variety of habitats, but produces more capsules in wet habitats

Florida Introduction Date: 1940s

Control Methods: Mechanical: Dig up entire plant including root system..

Chemical: A single foliar treatment of 2% Glyphosate 41.0% L can reduce cover. A follow-up treatment 2-3 months later may be needed (IFAS)..

Useful Resources:

Langeland, K.A., H.M. Cherry, C.M. McCormick, K.C. Burks. 2008. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas-Second Edition. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Comments: Seeds produce a gel-like substance when wet that enables them to stick to surfaces when they dry. Seeds can germinate at high rates in both light and dark conditions. Stands of Mexican-petunia can also spread via underground rhizomes.