

ALLIGATOR WEED

Noxious Weed



Description Alligator weed is a stoloniferous summer growing perennial herb. It can be found growing as an aquatic plant which can be free floating or attached to the bank or as a terrestrial plant growing in soil adjacent to streams or drains. Stems are hollow with nodes regularly spaced. Leaves are normally 2 to 7 cm long and 1 to 2 cm wide and form as opposite pairs at the nodes. White flowers form as a compact inflorescence on a short peduncle arising from the leaf axil. The flowers are papery to touch. The plant sometimes produce small yellow seeds which do not appear to be viable. Alligator weed is a declared noxious weed. Landholders are required to notify the Local Control Authority if found.



Spread - Alligator weed does not produce viable seeds under normal field conditions. It is spread entirely by vegetative means, with pieces of the parent plant being broken off and transported by floating downstream or carried on machinery or spoil to new sites. New plants can develop quickly from any piece of stem or root material containing a node providing adequate soil moisture is available. The major cause of spreading is by man. Accidental transportation on machinery and in spoil which is infested with alligator weed accounts for many of the new infestations found.

