

Long Leaf Willow Primrose Noxious Weed



Photos courtesy of NSW DPI, & G. Prichard

Long-leaf Willow Primrose- *Ludwigia longifolia*. also known as *Jussiaea longifolia*, a native of South America, grows naturally from Brazil to Argentina and is considered a major weed in its native range.

Description - *Ludwigia longifolia* is an annual shrub up to 3 m high.

Leaves and stems - Leaves are alternate, up to 15 cm long and 2.5 cm wide reducing in size up the stem. Stems are red, narrow, winged and usually branch towards the apex.

Flowers - Flowers are solitary and found in the junction of upper leaves and stems. Petals are yellow and 20–25 mm long. Flowering occurs from summer to winter.

Fruit - Fruit is oblong to narrow-oblong, 10–35 mm long, 4–8 mm wide with numerous minute seeds in each chamber.

Problem - *Ludwigia longifolia* can form dense colonies in slow moving waterways. If allowed to spread it will dominate tropical and sub-tropical wetlands and riparian vegetation. Research has found it can produce 25 million seeds per square metre under two year old plants. Seeds are easily spread by water, wind, human activity and animals, resulting in rapid spread. Control of plants with herbicide or by physical means is effective but constrained by the nature of the wetland habitats and the prolific seedling growth.