

Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*)



Foliage and flower

Alligator weed is an aquatic perennial that forms extensive floating mats in still or slow moving freshwater. It is also tolerant of brackish water. This plant also grows on land in various crops, pasture and gardens.

Alligator weed has a long, creeping, fleshy root system and waxy green leaves in opposite pairs along a creeping, hollow, green or red-tinged stem. It produces white, clover-like flowers, with each flower head on a long stalk.

The weed is spread when parts of the floating mat or stem fragments break away from the weed mass, or by contamination of cultivation or drainage machinery. It is difficult to control once established.

Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.