

# **Alligatorweed**

## Alternanthera philoxeroides

## **Description**

First recorded in Alabama in 1897. Possibly introduced through ballast water.

#### Habit

Emergent or rooted woody floating plant. Plants have hollow steams and can grow up to 3 ft. (1 m) tall.

#### Leaves

Opposite, elliptical, pairs or whorls, thick but non-succulent. Up to 4 in. (10 cm) long.

#### **Stems**

Hollow, growing up to 3 ft. (1 m) tall. Stolons can reach a length of 10 m.

#### **Flowers**

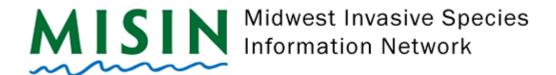
White in color, clover-like heads in the axils of the leaves. Occurres during the summer months.

#### Fruits and Seeds

Very small, single-seeded. Typically non-viable.

## **Habitat**





Native to South America. Can be found in wet soils or shallow water growing out into waterways. Can also grow on land.

## Reproduction

Vegetatively as seeds are rarely produced.

#### Similar

Marsh seedbox (Ludwigia palustris), Lake hygrophila (Hygrophila costata).

## **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Mechanical removal can be costly and potentially cause fragments to regrow. Bio-control methods have been successful with the use of the alligatorweed flea beetle (Agasicles hygrophila).

#### **Credits**

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