

NOXIOUS WEED FACT SHEET

NAME:	Alligator Weed
BOTANICAL NAME:	<i>Alternanthera philoxeroides</i>
ORIGINS:	A South America perennial plant that grows on land in damp soil or in water as dense floating mats.
NOXIOUS WEED CATEGORY:	Class 1 – The plant must be fully and continuously suppressed and destroyed.
DESCRIPTION:	Has greenish hollow stems with shiny green leaves arranged on opposite pairs along the stem. Flowers are white compact ball and paper like carried on a short stalk.
BIOLOGY:	Has surface stems that root at nodes (stoloniferous) and underground stems which produces shoots and roots (rhizomatous).
HABITAT:	Grows under a wide range of conditions on land and in water. It invades and seriously affects fresh and brackish water bodies
DETRIMENTAL AFFECTS:	Amongst the worst aquatic weed threats in Australia. It restricts water flow, reduces water bird and fish habitat and is a haven for mosquitoes.



See other side for control methods.

CONTROL METHODS:

Early control is essential to avoid major problems.

Mechanical

Alligator weed is difficult to control by mechanically removing the plant, due to its physical nature. The plant is extremely soft, fragile and buoyant and tends to break-up when physically handled which aid in its dispersal. The root system can be very deep and the plant can regrow from underground root segments if not completely removed.

Chemical

- Terrestrial Plants – An application of an appropriate chemical over at least two seasons is essential.
- Free Floating Plants - An application of an appropriate herbicide designed for aquatic areas when actively growing.

Always read the label before using any pesticides. All chemicals MUST be used strictly in accordance with the registered label for the product.

Biological

There are two biological control agents established in NSW to control the alligator weed. They only control in the aquatic habitat, not when it grows on land.

- The Flea Beetle (*Agasicles hygrophila*)
- The Stem Boring Moth (*Vogtia malloi*)

For additional information, contact the Vegetation Control Officer at Lake Macquarie City Council – (02) 49210360

