



Department of  
Primary Industries

### Alligator weed is illegal

Alligator weed is a Weed of National Significance and is declared noxious in all states and territories. It must be controlled and it is an offence to grow, move or trade alligator weed.

### Early detection is critical

Alligator weed is extremely difficult to control once established. Eradication is possible when infestations are detected early.

### You can help stop the spread

- 1 Be aware of alligator weed – the threat it poses and how it is spread.
- 2 Learn how to identify alligator weed. Check around watercourses, irrigation channels, drains and low-lying areas.
- 3 Thoroughly clean all machinery that has been near infested areas, including earth moving and channel cleaning equipment, motor vehicles, boats and boat trailers.
- 4 Avoid moving machinery, boats or vehicles through areas known to be infested with alligator weed.

a weed of national significance



Contact your  
local weeds officer  
immediately if an  
infestation is suspected

*If you have seen this plant please contact your  
local council weeds officer, the NSW Weeds Hotline  
1800 680 244 or email [weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au](mailto:weeds@dpi.nsw.gov.au)*

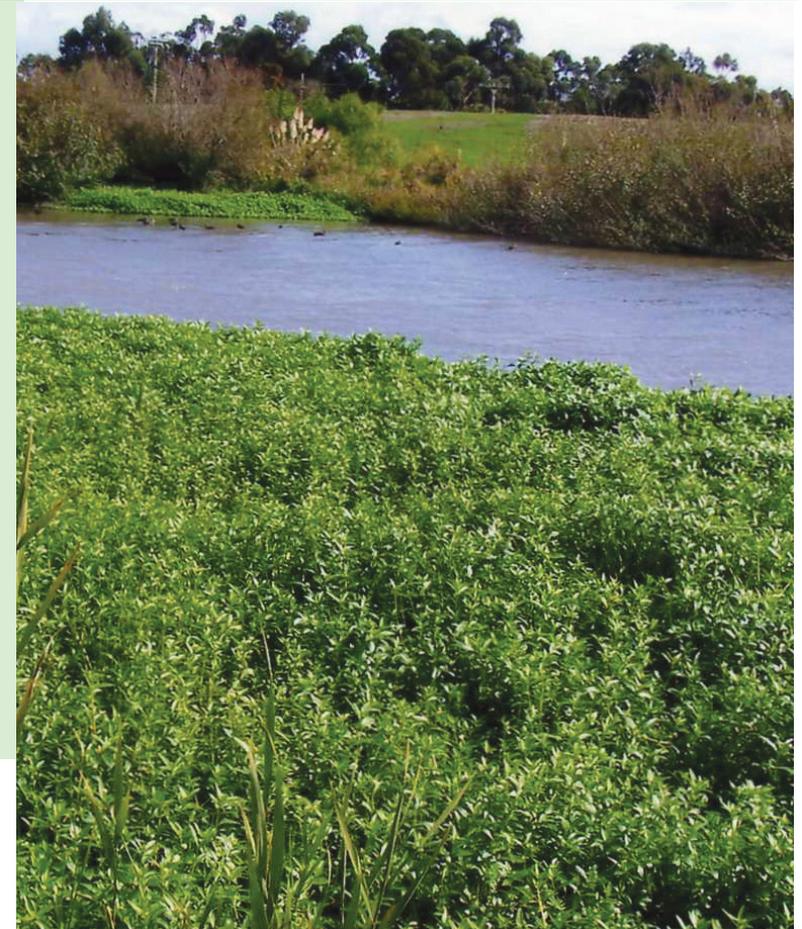
### Further information

For further information visit [www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/weeds)

NEW SOUTH WALES  
WEEDS ACTION PROGRAM

12607

**Alligator weed**  
*(Alternanthera philoxeroides)*  
**Can you identify it?**



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[www.dpi.nsw.gov.au](http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au)

Alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*) is an aggressive invader of Australia's waterways, wetlands and floodplains. A native of South America, it can grow in water and on land.



### Alligator weed has serious impacts

Alligator weed:

- blocks irrigation channels and water storage facilities
- chokes waterways and wetlands
- depletes oxygen levels and restricts light penetration in the water, affecting fish and other aquatic life
- out-competes native plants
- invades horticulture, pastures, turf and cropping systems
- interferes with water-based recreational activities



1

### How to identify alligator weed

Alligator weed can take many forms. It can grow as a mat of stems on the water surface – either free floating or rooted in the bank. It can also grow on land in an upright stand, amongst other vegetation, or along the ground.

Alligator weed has:

- 1 glossy spear-shaped leaves arranged in opposite pairs along the stems;
- 2 hollow stems; and
- 3 papery white ball-shaped flowers on short stalks.
- 4 On land plants can have reddish stems and extensive underground root systems.



2



3



4



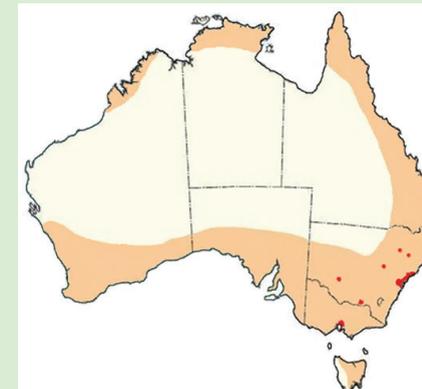
### Alligator weed spreads easily

Plant fragments can create new infestations when they float downstream or are moved via human activities. People can spread plant fragments on earthmoving machinery and boats, and in soil or turf.

Alligator weed has the potential to spread and affect waterways, wetlands and floodplains throughout most of southern and eastern Australia.

### Distribution

- Current
- Potential



GRAHAM PRITCHARD

