

ALLIGATOR WEED

(*Alternanthera philoxeroides*)

THIS PLANT IS A WEED OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE

Alligator weed grows both in water and on land. It has extremely vigorous growth and is very tolerant of control measures making it a major threat to Camden's local environment, agricultural areas, and waterways including the Nepean River.

Alligator weed grows as a thick blanket and can cause waterways to become blocked, restricting water movement and affecting light and oxygen levels. It can outcompete native vegetation causing loss of habitat and food sources for native animals and can also restrict stock access to drinking water.

KEY FEATURES:

- Small papery white flower heads on short stalks;
- Leaves are shiny, spear shaped and grow in opposite pairs up to 7cm long;
- It has hollow stems;
- Extensive underground root system allowing for survival over long periods; and
- Does not produce viable seed - reproduces from stem fragments.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD?

- On excavation machinery, vehicles, boats and trailers that move between waterways and properties;
- By water currents, birds and animals;
- Can escape from gardens where it has been planted; and
- Movement of turf, hay or soil from infested properties.

Alligator weed is difficult to control and expert advice is recommended. Please contact Camden Council's Biosecurity Officer on 13 22 63 or by emailing mail@camden.nsw.gov.au for assistance.

For more information visit weeds.dpi.nsw.gov.au/Weeds/AlligatorWeed

Department of
Primary Industries



Image by Elissa van Oosterhout



Image by Andrew Petroeschovsky



Image by Bob Trounce NSW DPI

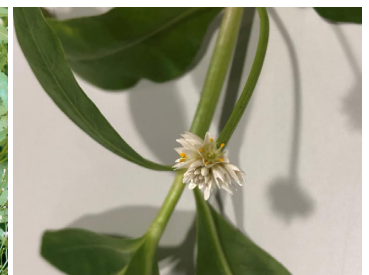


Image by Kylie van der Kolk



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