

# Alligator weed:

## *Alternanthera philoxeroides*

(Non-native)



**A**lligator weed is a floating aquatic plant. It originated in South America, but has spread to many parts of the world and is considered an invasive species. Alligator weed can grow in a variety of habitats but is usually found in water. It may form large interwoven mats over the water or along shorelines. Alligator weed flowers during the warm months of the year and has whitish, ball-shaped flowers that grow on stalks.

When alligator weed invades waterways it can reduce water flow and quality by preventing light penetration and oxygenation of the water. It can also reduce water, bird and fish activity, even causing fish and native plants to die. Alligator weed mats are difficult to control and create a favorable habitat for breeding mosquitoes.

