

*Alternanthera philoxeroides*

alligator weed

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*Alternanthera philoxeroides* alligator weed

**Appearance:** Sprawling herb, usually in water, often in row crops and gardens. Stems pinkish, can become hollow when larger, to 1 m (3.3 ft) long.

**Leaves:** Opposite, narrowly elliptic or spatulate, occasionally a few indistinct teeth on margin, to 9 cm (3.5 in) long.

**Flowers:** Reduced, bisexual in round white heads on long stalks from upper leaf axils; each flower with 4-5 thin, papery bracts, 5 stamens, 1 pistil.

**Fruit:** Tiny, one-seeded, thin-walled.

**Ecological threat:**

FLEPPC Category II—Invasive exotics that have increased in abundance or frequency but have not yet altered Florida plant communities to the extent shown by Category I species.



**Distribution:** NW, NE, C, SW, SE

**Field Notations**

ALTEPHIL/ALPH

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