

Wedelia

***Wedelia trilobata* syn. *Sphagneticola trilobata* (L) Asteraceae**



Biology



- Native to tropical America
- Introduced as an ornamental
 - Beautiful flowers
 - Rapid forming, thick groundcover
- Member of the composite or aster family

Distribution & Impacts

- Found in central and south Florida
- Associated with disturbed sites, along roadsides, trails, streams, and waste places
 - Generally as a direct escape from cultivation
- Major weed in agricultural settings in other parts of the world
- Displaces native, other desirable species

Identification

Mature Plant

- Mat-forming perennial herb
- Rounded stems
- Spread via runners and fragmentation
- Stems root at the nodes



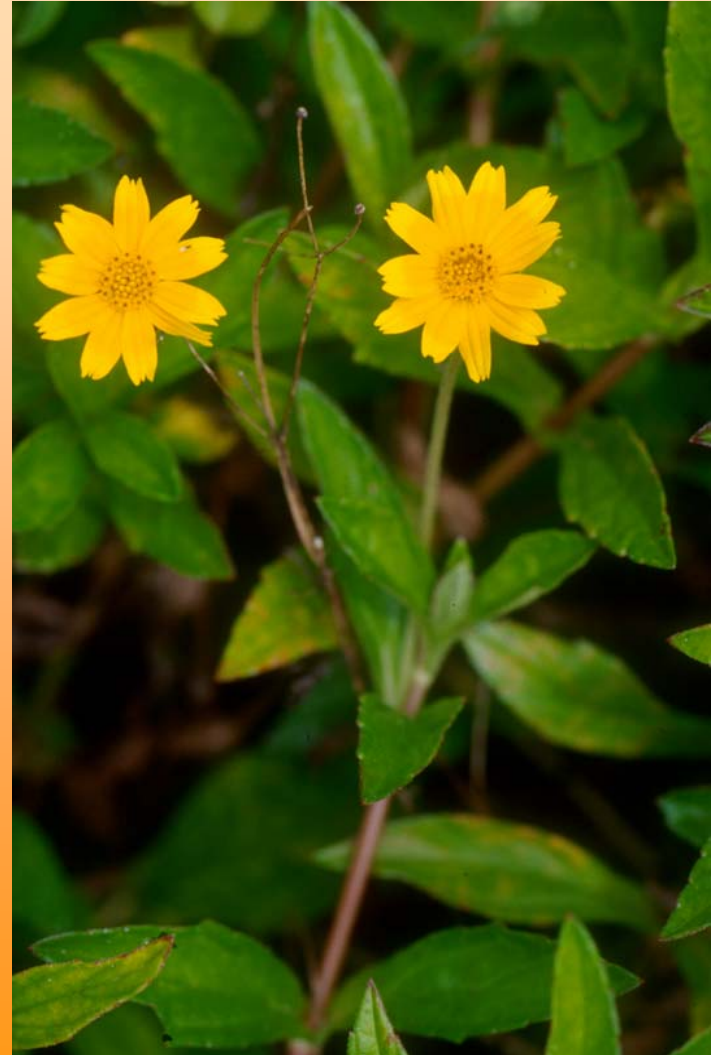
Leaves

- Leaves are arranged oppositely
- 2 to 4 inches long
- Irregularly toothed margins



Flowers

- Large solitary flowers, one inch in diameter
- Yellow to orange in color
- Very low seed production – not considered a means of spread



Management

Preventative

Cultural

Mechanical

Biological

Chemical

Preventative



1. Remove existing plants before seeds are produced
2. Rouge plants from fencerows, ditchbanks – prevent seed spread into clean areas
3. Use caution when disposing garden waste – could contain fragments

Cultural



1. Alternative landscape plants to replace wedelia
2. Programs to educate homeowners about the problems associated with wedelia and proper identification
3. Maintain good ground cover and mixture of plant species to reduce establishment

Biological



1. There are no known biological control agents available for wedelia management in Florida or the southeastern U.S.

Mechanical



1. Hand pull plants, small infestations
2. Mowing or cutting is ineffective, as the plant is prostrate in growth habit, may actually spread the plant through fragmentation
3. Cultivation or other tillage is very effective, but not a viable option in many areas

Chemical



1. Limited research in this area
2. Over-the-top applications of glyphosate (2-5%) or triclopyr (1-2%) solution plus 0.25% surfactant
3. Apply in spring, prior to flowering and fruit development
4. Followup treatment likely, especially on larger, dense populations



Useful Links

- Floridata Homepage:
http://www.floridata.com/main_fr.cfm?state=Welcome&viewsrc=welcome.htm
- University of Florida Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants:
<http://aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu/welcome.html>
- The Plant Conservation Alliance's Alien Plant Working Group. Weeds Gone Wild: Alien Plant Invaders of Natural Areas:
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/index.htm>

Useful Links

- Pacific Island Ecosystems at Risk (PIER). Plant Threats to Pacific Ecosystems: <http://www.hear.org/pier/threats.htm>
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service. Plants Database: <http://plants.usda.gov>

Literature Cited

Langeland, K.A. and K. Craddock Burks. 1998. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville. 165 pp