

WEED WIZARD



Mulberry Weed: ID and Control

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Figure 1. Mulberry weed (*Fatoua villosa*) in flower.

Mulberry weed (*Fatoua villosa*) (Figure 1 and 2), gives growers and Extension Agents a lot of problems. Also called crabweed or hairy crabweed, it invades landscapes, field nurseries, and containerized ornamentals.

In addition to Georgia, it has been reported in Arkansas, and all states East of the Mississippi from Florida to Indiana.

PLANT CHARACTERISTICS:

Mulberry weed is a herbaceous annual, with a taproot. Leaves are alternate and serrated along the margins. Purplish green flowers are without petals, and are produced in 1 inch clusters (cymes) in leaf axils. The plant grows to 3 or 4 feet tall.

CONTROL MEASURES:

Generally, broad spectrum post emergent herbicides are used to control mulberry weed.

Trade Name	Chemical Name
Roundup and others	glyphosate
Finale	glufosinate
Reward	diquat

Dr. Joe Neal, a researcher at North Carolina State University has performed extensive studies on the biology and control of this plant, recommends the following preemergent herbicides:

Trade Name	Chemical Name
Factor	prodiamine
Surflan	oryzalin
Gallery	isoxaben

For more information, check out his web page write-up on mulberry weed (<http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/hort/weeds/index.html>).

OTHER TIPS:



- ~ Don't let weeds go to flower. If you see flowers, seeds are on the way, and they only led to more plants.
- ~ Keep vegetation mowed around production areas as far back as possible.
- ~ If you see any plants growing, eliminate them as soon as possible
- ~ Rotate pre-emergence herbicides so the plants are exposed to different herbicide chemistry. In other words, don't use Surflan followed by Factor. Both have the same mode of action. Instead, rotate to something like Gallery (which has very different mode of action from Surflan or Factor). For excellent weed control, try tank mixing Gallery with products like Surflan. It provides an excellent spectrum of weed control. As always, read and follow product labels!



Figure 2. Mulberry weed (*Fatoua villosa*) plant.



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