

# CITRUS WEED SPOTLIGHT

## Ragweed parthenium, *Parthenium hysterophorus* (Synonymous with false ragweed, whitetop)

**By Stephen H. Futch  
and David W. Hall**

**Season:** summer annual

**Plant height:** up to 4 feet tall

**Roots:** taproot

**Stem:** erect, hairy and branched

**Leaf:** alternate, stalked, short  
pube-scent, bipinnatifid (twice



divided); lower leaves form basal rosette whereas upper leaves are entirely to slightly lobed

**Flower:** open branching, many branches, aster type clusters, arranged at the stem tip; hairy; both disc and ray flowers present; both are white and very small; disc flowers are tiny, less than one-fifth of an inch in size

**Fruit:** black, round nutlet and less than one-tenth of an inch in size

**Distribution:** throughout Florida and north into New York and Michigan and west into Texas

**Additional comments:** In many locations, this weed is becoming increasingly resistant to glyphosate in groves located on the east coast of Florida. Contact with any part can cause asthma, bronchitis, dermatitis and hay fever.



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