

CITRUS WEED SPOTLIGHT

Painted leaf, wild poinsettia (*Poinsettia cyathophora*)

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

Season: annual herb

Plant height: up to 2.5 feet tall

Leaves: opposite to alternate, lobed,
ovate to oblong, pointed, toothed edges

Stem: erect, slightly hairy,
branching

Flowers: tiny and inconspicuous,



yellow-green in color found in terminal clusters above floral bracts; bracts (modified leaves below flowers) green or red at base; flowers all year in warm areas, and in the summer and fall in cooler locations

Fruit: smooth capsule that is slightly longer than wide, 1/6 inch long

Distribution:
found throughout Florida in hammocks, fields and disturbed sites, as well as many other states and into South America and West Indies

Comment:
When stem or leaf is broken, a white, milky sap will exude from the damaged tissue.

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