

CITRUS WEED SPOTLIGHT

Cupid's shaving brush, Florida tassel (*Emilia fosbergii*)

By Stephen H. Futch
and David W. Hall

Life cycle: herbaceous annual

Plant height: to 2.5 feet tall

Leaves: mostly basal, alternate, toothed margins, blade tip wider, basal leaves winged, upper leaves usually at least somewhat clasping stem

Stem: unbranched or often branched, erect, smooth near top, hairy at base; from a taproot

Flowers: in cylindrical flower heads, each head

to three-quarter inch long, on long stalks; crimson or bright scarlet rays occur at top of heads, poking out like shaving brush bristles; flowering year-round

Fruit: nutlet, five-angled, tiny bumps on the angles, numerous soft bristles at top

Distribution: throughout peninsular Florida

Comment: The dazzlingly bright crimson red flowers are small but very conspicuous

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