

## Caesar weed, bur mallow (*Urena lobata*)

By Stephen H. Futch, David W. Hall  
and Brent Sellers

**Life cycle:** herbaceous perennial that grows 3 to 10 feet tall

**Leaves:** alternate; stalked; blades rounded, often somewhat four-sided, 2 to 4 inches long, usually with pointed shallow lobes and toothed edges; upper surface feels rough, densely hairy on lower surface, mid-vein on underside with a slit-like gland

**Stem:** erect, branching, often red, hairy

**Flower:** occur in axils of leaves; pink, darker toward center with five petals 1 to 1.5 inches wide; petals are united at base, solitary flowers or in clusters of a few flowers; flowers all year

**Fruit:** capsules rounded, five-chambered which easily split into five parts, covered with barbed spines; barbed spines on fruit act as an effective dispersal mechanism, and are easily entangled in animal hair or onto clothing

**Seeds:** kidney-shaped brown seed (2-3 mm long), enclosed in spiny burs

**Propagated by:** seed

**Growth characteristics:** herbaceous plant to small shrub

**Comment:** a non-native (exotic) plant distributed throughout peninsular Florida and in Louisiana; now a pantropical weed probably originating from the Old World; cultivated for fiber in some parts of the world

**Control:** Products that contain bromacil, indaziflam, norflurazone, pendimethalin and simazine provide pre-emergence control of caesar weed emerging from seed.



Glyphosate, paraquat dichloride or products containing 2,4-D provide good to excellent activity on small plants.

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