

Citrus Weed Spotlight

Florida beggarweed, beggartick or stick-tight

Desmodium tortuosum

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

LIFE CYCLE: Summer annual

HEIGHT: 6 feet tall or more

LEAVES: First pair of leaves opposite, but all other leaves alternate; leaves with stalks, usually with one leaflet (unifoliate) on lower nodes and leaves on upper nodes with three leaflets (trifoliate), entire, rough; trifoliate leaves have persistent one-quarter inch, egg-shaped to lance-shaped stipules at the base of the leaf stalk; leaflets elliptic to rounded, 1 to 4 inches long; terminal leaflets diamond-shaped; lateral leaflets egg-shaped to oblong



STEM: Erect, simple or branched, wide-spreading, hairy, reddish-purple; may be somewhat woody at the base, sometimes with a diameter of at least 1.5 inches

FLOWERS: Stalked on long terminal and axillary branches, pea-shaped and purplish; occasional unifoliate leaves are present on the flowering branches

SEEDPOD: Pod hairy, about 1-inch long, segmented into four to six rounded parts; each segment densely covered with short, hooked hairs that adhere to clothing and animal fur

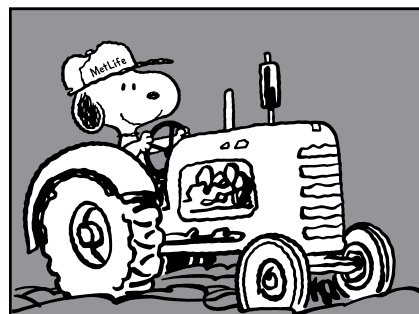
FLOWER: Throughout the year southward; spring into fall in colder climates

PROPAGATED BY: Seed

COMMENTS: Introduced as a forage plant, found throughout Florida, north to North Carolina and west to east Texas, Hawaii, West Indies and Mexico south into South America; naturalized in tropics of the Old World; native to tropical America; distinguished from other *Desmodium* species by upright growth habit and is the only annual species in this genus

CONTROL: Extremely sensitive to glyphosate and saflufenacil 🍊

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