

# Citrus Weed Spotlight

## Little bell morning glory or Aiea morning glory

*Ipomoea triloba*

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

**LIFE CYCLE:** Fast-growing annual, twining vine

**HEIGHT:** Prostrate or climbing, 3 to 10 feet long or high

**LEAVES:** Heart-shaped and often three-lobed, 1 to 3 and a quarter inches long

**STEM:** Thin, usually twines; sap milky



**FLOWERS:** Clustered at the tip of a very long stalk from the leaf axils; sepals slightly unequal, about one-eighth to three-eighths inches long, smooth or sparsely hairy on the outside/back; corolla tubular, five-lobed, bell- or funnel-shaped, about three-quarter to 1-inch long; variable in color from pink to pale purple, with a dark maroon center; white stamens; may close in late morning

**FRUIT:** Capsule round, about one-quarter-inch wide, bristly, hairy; seeds two to four, hairless, shiny, dark brown

**PROPAGATED BY:** Seeds

**COMMENTS:** Climbs through vegetation, into tree canopies or spreads along the ground. Can shade out medium-sized trees, shrubs and other vegetation. Scattered throughout Florida, it has also been found in California, Hawaii and the West Indies. Native to tropical America, but now a pantropical weed. Listed as a noxious weed in Florida and Puerto Rico. In certain conditions, little bell may become perennial and develop a tuber.

**CONTROL:** Control by glyphosate is enhanced when applied in combination with either Treevix or Aim, if adequate coverage is achieved when plants are growing on the ground. When applying either Treevix or Aim, be sure to follow label recommendations on addition of surfactant and ammonium sulfate. We currently lack sufficient data to make a full recommendation on pre-emergence herbicide control. It is assumed that standard pre-emergence herbicides like diuron and simazine should provide some suppression of emerging seedlings. 🍌

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