

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. 🍌

Stephen H. Futch is a University of Florida multi-county Extension agent at the Citrus Research and Education Center in Lake Alfred; David W. Hall is a retired botanist with the University of Florida departments of botany and natural sciences in Gainesville; Brent Sellers is a University of Florida associate professor at the Range Cattle Research and Education Center in Ona.

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