Citrus Weed Spotlight

Hemp sesbania

*Sesbania macrocarpa*

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

**LIFE CYCLE:** Herbaceous annual

**HEIGHT:** 3 to 13 feet tall

**LEAVES:** Alternate; stalked; short-petiole; blades divided with 20 to 70 opposite leaflets that are narrow oblong and one-half to 1 inch in length; hairs often present on the underside of leaflets

**STEM:** Green, erect, smooth, branching, may become woody with age, round to slightly angled

**FLOWERS:** Yellow to red color, pea-shaped; five partially fused petals, one-third- to one-half-inch long; borne in leaf axils

**FRUIT:** Linear pod, narrow and long and becomes four-sided, up to 7 inches long; contains up to 30 to 40 seeds per pod. At maturity, the pod breaks open to release seeds.

**SEEDS:** Brown, mottled with black color, two times longer than wide

**PROPAGATED BY:** Seed

**COMMENTS:** Commonly found in pasture, moist areas, ditches, canals and roadsides, and becomes extremely weedy. Native to North America and found throughout Florida, north to New York and west to California. Many species contain toxins causing colic, diarrhea and weakness.

**CONTROL:** No chemical recommendations in citrus, as control will vary due to location. Glyphosate and paraquat will control plants if adequate coverage is provided and when plants are small.

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