

Citrus Weed Spotlight

Horseweed

(also known as Canadian horseweed, Canadian fleabane and mare's tail)

Conyza canadensis

(formerly known as *Erigeron canadensis*, *Conyza parva* and *Leptilon canadense*)

By Steve Futch, David Hall, Brent Sellers and Ramdas Kanissery

LIFE CYCLE: Annual

FORM AND PLANT HEIGHT: Up to 6 feet tall, unbranched to the inflorescence, many-branched and elongated inflorescence

LEAVES: Alternate, not stalked, lance-shaped; margins with rough, irregular, coarse teeth; stiff hairs along margin at base; crushed leaves have a carrot-like scent

STEM: Erect and hairy; cutting the main stem of horseweed may lead to the regrowth of basal branches

FLOWERS: Numerous flowers on slender stalks, arranged on multiple branches at the stem tips with few hairs; ray flowers are white and tiny; disc flowers are yellow and tiny; outer bracts are often minutely purple-tipped; each flower head contains approximately 20 florets

FRUIT: Tiny nutlets are elliptical or oblong and tipped with stiff hairs.

PROPAGATED BY: Nutlets

DISTRIBUTION: Native of North America; introduced throughout the world, including throughout Florida, throughout most of North America and in Central America

CONTROL: This weed has been reported to be resistant to glyphosate in many locations within the United States. When glyphosate is applied, it will burn the top back, but regrowth follows quickly. At the present time, few studies have been conducted on controlling horseweed in citrus groves. When labels are reviewed for post-emergence herbicide products commonly used in Florida citrus, Gramoxone (paraquat dichloride), Landmaster (glyphosate + 2,4-D), Rely (glufosinate-ammonium) and Treevix (saflufenacil) all have recommendations for controlling horseweed on their labels. Control of horseweed is better on smaller plants when in the rosette growth stage than on large, mature plants. 🍊

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