

Scientific Name: *Murdania keisak*.

Common Name: Marsh Dewflower

Updated: 1/11/2016

A. Priority:

B. Description - Marsh Dewflower (wart-removing-herb) is an annual, emergent plant that invades wetlands in the southeastern and northwestern United States. Plant stems are succulent, form roots at the nodes and grow prostrate along the ground. Stems are 12-30 in. (30.5-76.2 cm) long. Leaves are alternate, lance-shaped, and up to 3 in. (7.6 cm) long. In September to November, small, pink, 3-petaled flowers occur singly or in small clusters at the apex of the stems and in the leaf axils. The fruit is a capsule that each contains several small seeds. Marsh dewflower invades water edges and marshes and often grows immersed. It forms dense mats that outcompete native vegetation. Marsh dewflower is native to eastern Asia and was accidentally introduced into the United States, in South Carolina, around 1935.

C. Damage and threats – The aggressive nature of this plant has now been clearly displayed by its ability to establish itself in freshwater wetlands and crowd out native vegetation by forming a solid mat of vegetation. Even in its native region, this species is a troublesome weed. Not only does it produce thousands of very small seeds, it can reproduce vegetatively.

D. Management Options

Mechanical Control: Mechanical control can be conducted prior to the plant seeding each year. Complete eradication cannot be achieved with mechanical means as the succulent stems and roots easily break off and sprout new plants.

Chemical Control: Use of a systematic herbicide is the best option to control *Murdania*. We recommend using aquatic formulations of herbicides in this region to limit potentially unwanted effects to the surrounding environment. More details provided in the management techniques below. Due to the habitats this species normally infests, treatment options should be carefully considered prior to beginning any treatment regime.

- a. Foliar Spray** – This method involves spraying a dilute herbicide directly onto the plants leaves. Application needs to occur when foliage is present, sometime between full leaf and the onset of fall for full effectiveness. Caution should be taken when applying herbicide with this method as non-target plants can easily be killed by drift or overspray. Application should cover at least 80% of the leaves.
To treat *Murdania*, use a 2-4% solution of aquatic triclopyr or glyphosate in water with a 0.5% aquatic safe non-ionic surfactant and apply directly to leaves until just before runoff. Air temperatures must be above 65 degrees and winds should be lower than 5 mph.

E. Recommended Management Strategy

Due to the habitats in which this species is found, we recommend a detailed case by case treatment strategy for this species. In general, hand pulling smaller infestations diligently over several years may provide control.

F. Additional and Updated Information

For additional information including photographs and the most up to date control recommendations please visit www.wachng.org/Plants.