

A close-up photograph of witchweed plants. The plants have thin, green, upright stems with small, narrow leaves. Several bright red, five-petaled flowers are visible, some in full bloom and some as buds. A prominent, dark, almost black stem with a dense, fuzzy appearance is in the center, likely a developing inflorescence or seed head. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue-grey.

**Watch Out for  
Witchweed**

# Watch Out for Witchweed

Witchweed infests the roots of corn, sorghum, sugarcane, rice, and more than 60 species of grasses. Although witchweed is believed to be established only in adjoining areas in North and South Carolina, it remains a threat to U.S. crops.

Witchweed stands 6–12 inches tall. It has slender,



four sided stems and narrow leaves emerging in pairs opposite each other. Bright-red flowers appear in spikes from mid-July until frost.

Watch out for witchweed, especially in July, August, and September. Don't overlook gardens, vacant fields, lots, roadsides, yards, and areas around farm buildings.

If you think you've seen witchweed, please **do not uproot** suspected plants. Ask your county agricultural agent for an on-the-farm identification. To report witchweed, call 1-800-206-WEED (from the Carolinas only) or (919) 513-4479 (from elsewhere).



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