

Will Roundup Or Other Glyphosate Herbicides Control Tropical Spiderwort?

Not necessarily. Glyphosate applied at high rates may have some impact on tropical spiderwort, but it will not eliminate the infestation altogether. Since tropical spiderwort produces seeds that may be viable for several years, pre-emergent herbicides will be a necessary component of your control program.

What Should I Do If I Find Tropical Spiderwort On My Property?

If you believe you have tropical spiderwort on your property, contact your local county extension office (1-800-ASK-UGA1) or the Georgia Department of Agriculture, Plant Protection Division at 404-651-9486.

Figure 4. *Close-up of Tropical Spiderwort Infestation*



Some of the information used in this pamphlet was provided by the University of Georgia, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences.

Contact the Georgia Department of Agriculture for additional information.

Georgia Department of Agriculture
Plant Protection Section
19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SW
Room 243
Atlanta, GA 30334

Phone: 404-651-9486
FAX: 404-656-3644

Please visit our website at:

www.agr.georgia.gov

Please feel free to visit these other useful websites.

Georgia Invasive Species Taskforce
www.gainvasives.org
www.invasive.org

University of Georgia, College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences
www.caes.uga.edu

Tropical Spiderwort

a.k.a. Bengal Dayflower
(Commelina benghalensis)

A New Concern For Georgia Nurseries



Byron Rhodes, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

To Report a Suspected Pest, Call:
404-651-9486

Georgia Department of Agriculture

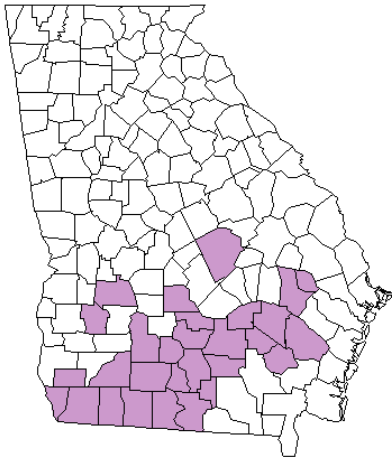


Tommy Irvin
Commissioner

What is Tropical Spiderwort?

Tropical spiderwort is an exotic, invasive Federal Noxious Weed that has become established in parts of Georgia. In Georgia, tropical spiderwort is usually an annual plant but may be perennial if warm conditions prevail. According to various authorities, tropical spiderwort is among the world's worst weeds. Tropical spiderwort is unusual in that it produces both aerial and underground flowers. Tropical Spiderwort forms dense stands which can smother other plants, especially low-growing crops.

Figure 1. Counties Known to be Infested With Tropical Spiderwort are Shaded in Purple.



What Does Tropical Spiderwort Look Like?

The stems are sprawling and will creep along the ground often rooting at the nodes. Leaves are alternate, lily-like and often have reddish hairs towards the tip. Leaf blades are generally ovate and measure 1 to 3 inches long and 0.5 to 1.5 inches wide. Aboveground flowers are lilac to

blue and very small (See Figure 2). Below ground flowers, which grow on burrowing rhizomes, are white.

Figure 2. The Above-Ground Tropical Spiderwort Flower



Herb Pilcher, USDA ARS, Bugwood.org

How Do I Identify Tropical Spiderwort?

Tropical spiderwort is the only *Commelina* species found in the United States with below-ground flowers (See Figure 3). Tropical spiderwort generally has short broad leaves while the other dayflower species have leaf blades that are relatively longer and narrower.

What Is The Concern About Tropical Spiderwort In Nursery Operations?

Tropical spiderwort is established in several counties in south Georgia. Plant Protection Division Inspectors have seen tropical spiderwort encroaching into sod, B&B and containerized production nurseries. This weed can be spread to other areas

Figure 3. The Underground Tropical Spiderwort Flower



Byron Rhodes, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org

through seeds, vegetative parts on equipment or as contaminants in sod or nursery stock.

Is Tropical Spiderwort Regulated By Anyone?

Some states, including North Carolina and Mississippi, have additional regulations concerning tropical spiderwort. Nursery stock entering those states must originate from growing areas certified by the Plant Protection Division as free from tropical spiderwort. Furthermore, it is a violation of federal regulations to transport a Federal Noxious Weed across state lines without a permit issued by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). In the case of nursery stock or sod infested with tropical spiderwort, even the accidental movement of the weed could result in monetary penalties from USDA.