

# **COMMON AGRICULTURAL WEEDS OF THE COASTAL PLAIN**



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## INTRODUCTION

This document was produced to assist USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) field office personnel identify common weeds encountered during field activities. The pictures and descriptions depict common field weeds of the Coastal Plain but could be utilized on a broader scale. Field identification of weedy vegetation can provide another valuable tool to landowners served by NRCS field staff. Proper identification can ensure improved herbicide application and land management techniques to control weed infestations. It is anticipated this document will be updated and expanded as needed.

To obtain more details on the plants covered in this publication access Flora of North America at <http://flora.huh.harvard.edu/FNA/volumes.shtml> or the USDA Plants database at <http://plants.usda.gov>.

All photographs were taken by Mike Owsley, Manager, USDA-NRCS, Jimmy Carter Plant Materials Center, Americus, Georgia.

*Front cover:* The photo on the front cover is a java-bean coffeeweed (*Senna obtusifolia*) seedling.

## PLANT LIST

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**ANNUAL RAGWEED SEEDLING**



**MATURE ANNUAL RAGWEED**



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database Wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species

### ***Ambrosia artemisiifolia*-Annual ragweed**

Annual ragweed is a summer herbaceous annual with erect stems from .5 to 8 feet tall. Compound leaves are deeply divided and produce a strong odor when crushed. Leaves are hairy on the upper surface and densely hairy on the lower surface. Small inconspicuous flowers produce many seeds.



**COFFEEWEED SEEDLING**



**MATURE COFFEEWEED**



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An Illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British possession

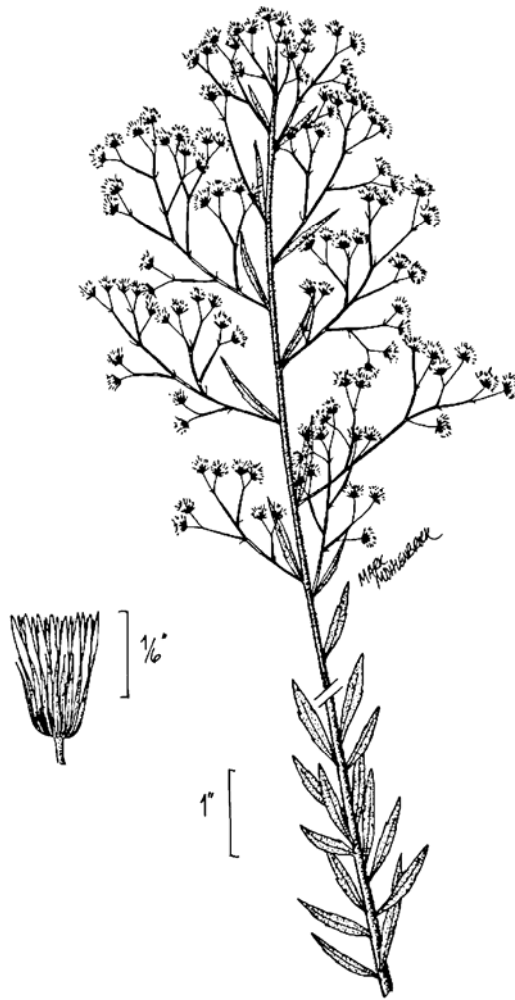
### **Senna obtusifolia-Java-bean,coffeeweed**

Java-bean is a summer herbaceous annual legume. Thick smooth stems grow to 5 feet tall. Smooth leaves are pinnately compound with three to six pairs of oval shaped leaflets. Yellow flowers are about 1 inch across. Fruit is a curved pod 2.5 to 4 inches long. Numerous light brown seed are produced in each pod.



**MATURE HORSEWEED**





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### **Conyza canadensis-Horseweed**

Horseweed is a winter or summer herbaceous annual with erect stems 1 to 6.5 feet tall. Leaves are usually narrowly elliptic in shape with small teeth along leaf margin. Small white and yellow flowers occur in numerous small heads. Many small bristled tipped seeds are produced from each flower head.



## **MATURE JOHNSONGRASS**



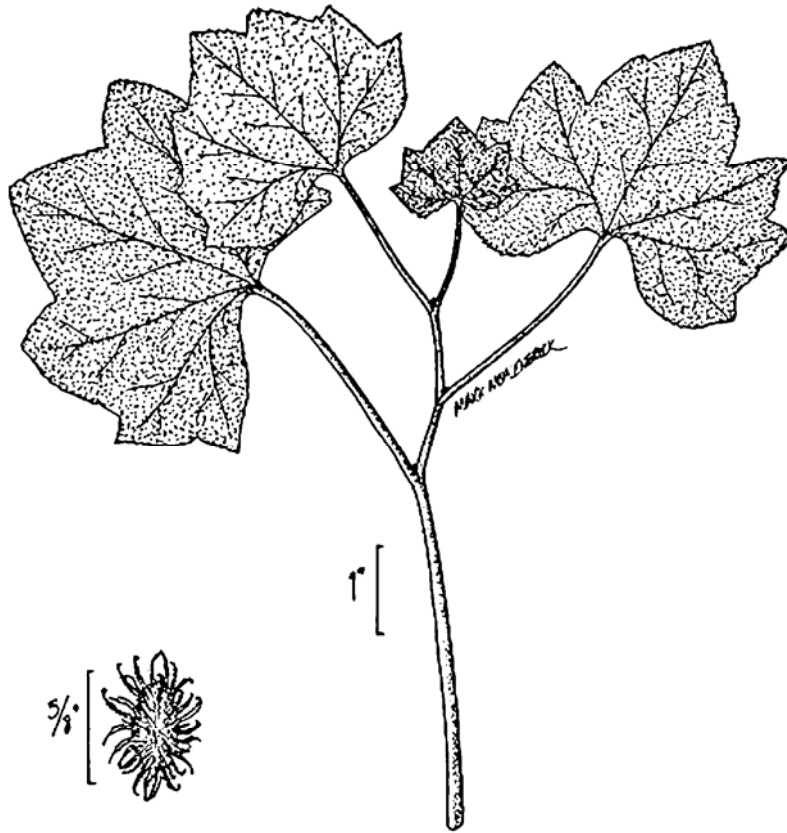
USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase). 1950. Manual of the grasses of the United States.

### **Sorghum halepense- Johnsongrass**

Johnsongrass is a summer perennial , rhizomatous grass with erect stems 2 to 6 feet tall. Leaves are smooth and linear up to 2 feet long. A panicle of blooms 2 feet long and 7 inches wide appear in summer. Many dark brown seed are shed from the plant each fall.



## **ROUGH COCKLEBUR**



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database Wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species

### **Xanthium strumarium- Rough cocklebur**

Rough cocklebur is a summer coarse annual with freely branched stems .5 to 5.5 feet tall. Stems are usually green with purple specks and stiff hairs. Leaves are dull green usually with three lobes along margins and a dense cover of stiff hairs. Flowers are arranged in small heads. Oval shaped heads of the female flowers support many stiff bristles. The seeds are enclosed within these burs or fruits.



## **IMMATURE BERMUDAGRASS**



USDA- NRCS PLANTS Database Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase ). 1950. Manual of the grasses of the United States.

### **Cynodon dactylon-Bermudagrass**

Bermudagrass is a summer perennial grass from rhizomes and stolons. Stems can grow 1 to 2 feet tall. Leaves diverge from opposite sides of the stem giving it a featherlike appearance. Flowers and seed appear at the end of thin flowering stems in the form of 3 to 5 spikes placed opposite each other.



## **MATURE EGYPTIAN GRASS**





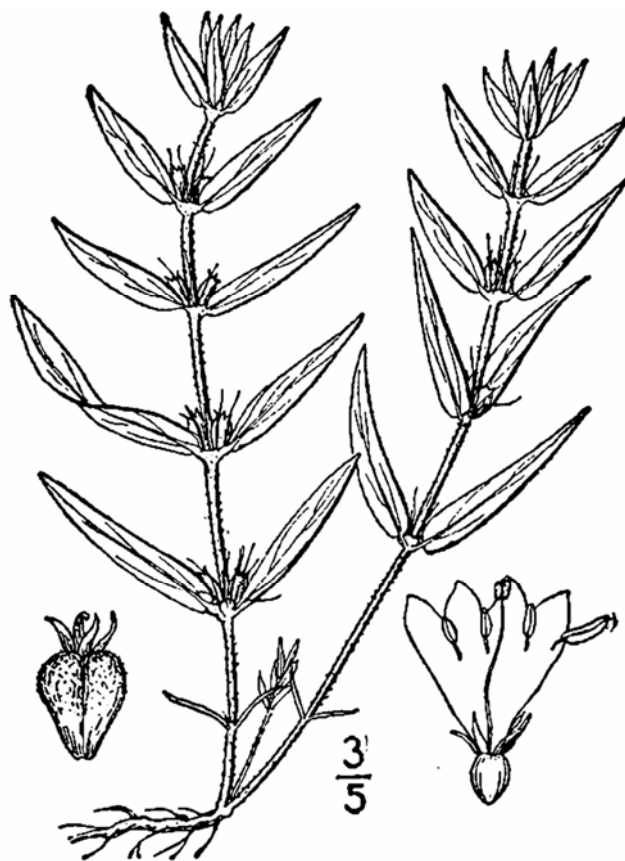
USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase). 1950. Manual of the grasses of the United States

### **Dactyloctenium aegyptium-Egyptian grass**

Egyptian grass is a summer annual bunch grass with erect stems to 2 feet tall. Leaves grow to 8 inches long with small hairs along the leaf margin. Flowers occur within 2 to 5 spikes at the end of a thick flowering stem. Each spike radiates from a common point on the top of the flowering stem. Each spike is .5 to 2 inches long.



## **MATURE POORJOE**



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database Britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British Possessions.

### **Diodia teres-Poorjoe**

Poorjoe is a summer herbaceous annual with erect to spreading stems 4 inches to 2.5 feet tall. Leaves grow up to 1.5 inches long ; they are linear to narrowly elliptic in shape and covered with stiff hairs. White to pink flowers .25 inches long appear in groups of 2 or 3 in leaf axils. Seeds are enclosed within small brown fruit segments less than .25 inches long.



## **MATURE INDIAN GOOSEGRASS**



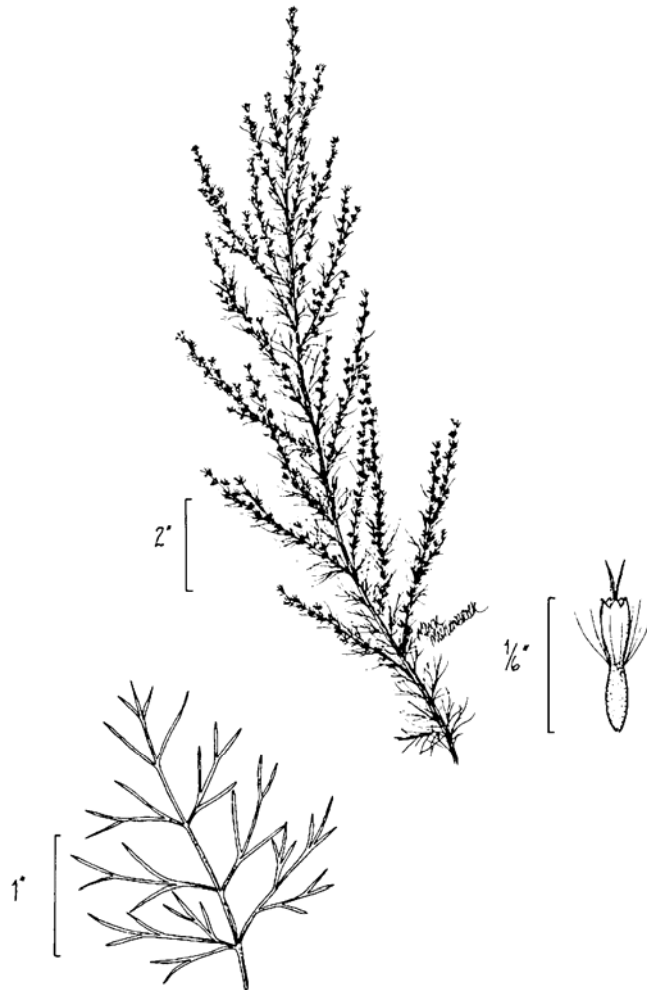
USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database Hitchcock, A.S. (rev. A. Chase). 1950. Manual of the grasses of the United States

### **Eleusine indica- Indian goosegrass**

Indian goosegrass is a summer annual bunch grass with erect stems 3 inches to 2 feet tall. Leaves are smooth, linear in shape and grow to 7 inches long. Flowers appear on 2 to 8 spikes (similar to Egyptian grass) each spike is 1 to 5 inches long.



## **DOGFENNEL**



USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database Wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species.

### ***Eupatorium capillifolium*-Dogfennel**

Dogfennel is a summer herbaceous annual or short-lived perennial with erect stems 3 to 9 feet tall. Leaves .75 to 2.5 inches long are deeply divided into linear segments. Leaves emit a strong odor when crushed. Greenish white flowers occur in small heads .25 to .5 inch long. Extremely small black bristle-tipped seed appear in fall.



## **MATURE SPINY AMARANTH**





USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database britton, N.L., and A. Brown. 1913. An illustrated flora of the northern United States, Canada and the British possessions

### **Amaranthus spinosus-Spiny amaranth**

Spiny amaranth is a coarse herbaceous summer annual with branching stout stems 1.5 to 5 feet tall. Leaves are widely elliptic 1.5 to 3 inches long with a basal spine to .5 inches long. Many small terminal flowers produce hundreds of tiny black glossy seed.