

A close-up photograph of witchweed plants. The image shows several green, upright stems with small, bright red flowers. In the center, a dark, almost black stem is visible, which is a seedling or young plant. The background is blurred, showing more of the same plants.

**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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