

# *Hygrophila polysperma*

## INDIAN SWAMPWEED

### Acanthaceae

Common Synonyms: *Justicia polysperma*

**FLEPPC Category:** 1

**FDACS Listed Noxious Weed:** No

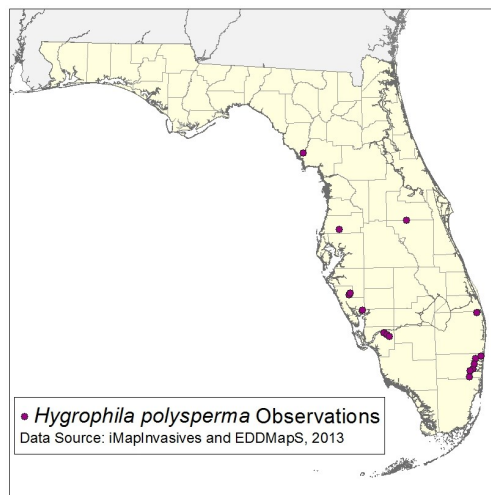
**IFAS Assessment**

North	-
Central	-
South	-

**USDA Hardiness Zone:** 7b - 11

**Growth Habit:** Emergent Aquatic

**Origin:** India, Malaysia



USDA APHIS PPQ Archive, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org

**Description:** Perennial aquatic, mostly submersed, rooted. Square stem. Leaves opposite, variable color green to reddish, 8 cm long and 2 cm wide, broadest toward tip, joined at node by ciliate flange of tissue to 1.5 mm long. Flowers bluish white, small, solitary in upper leaf axils (almost hidden by the leaves). Fruit a narrow capsule with tiny round seeds.

**Note:** Similar to several native submersed species (*Ludwigia repens* and *Diodia* spp.), neither of which have the flange of tissue at nodes.

**Habitat:** Streams, springs, lakes, and ruderal sites; prefers flowing streams

**Comments:** Popular aquarium plant. Vouchered Broward north to Leon County. Established in some waterways since 1980s. Eradication unlikely.

**Florida Introduction Date:** 1965

#### Control Methods:

Biological: Triploid grass carp (successful in canals)

Chemical: Endothall, labelled to be legally used in drainage ditches, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers and streams

\*\*Follow herbicide labels: Only herbicides registered for application in water by EPA and FDACS may be applied to weeds growing in or near water.

#### Useful Resources:

Dave's Garden. 2013. PlantFiles: *Hygrophila*, *Hygrophila polysperma*. <http://davesgarden.com/guides/pf/go/32039/>. Accessed on December 10, 2013.

IFAS, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants. 2013. East Indian hygrophila. <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu/node/191>. Accessed on December 2, 2013.

Langeland, K.A., H.M. Cherry, C.M. McCormick, K.C. Burks. 2008. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas-Second Edition. IFAS Publication SP 257. University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida.

Vandiver VV. 1980. *Hygrophila*. *Aquatics* 2:4-11