



Khakiweed

O & T Guide W-8

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Khakiweed, *Alternanthera pungens*, is a nonnative herbaceous perennial that grows in thick, spreading mats on the ground, often 0.5-2.0 ft. in diameter. The weed spreads through spiny burs that attach themselves to animals, clothing, tires, and equipment. It is also known as creeping chaffweed.

The stems can grow to various lengths depending on environmental conditions. Stems are highly branched, spreading, and grow along the ground, often rooting at the stem nodes. They are green, brown, reddish, or purple in color and covered with short hairs.



The leaves are mostly oval in shape, 0.5-2.0 in. long and 0.25-0.50 in. wide, often with a pointed tip. They grow in an opposite pattern along the stem and opposing leaf pairs often differ in size. Leaves are green in color, often with a shiny appearance and sometimes waxy

texture. Leaves normally have a conspicuous midvein.



Flowers are found at leaf axils. They are small and white and are surrounded by numerous green, white, or straw-colored spiny bracts each about 0.08-0.20 in. long. These bracts make up the burs that allow khakiweed to spread. Khakiweed grows from a woody taproot and reproduces through seed, root nodes, or root fragments.





Management:

- Physical removal must remove as much of the root system as possible
- Herbicides are effective