

Witchweed (*Striga asiatica* (L.) Kuntze)



Description:

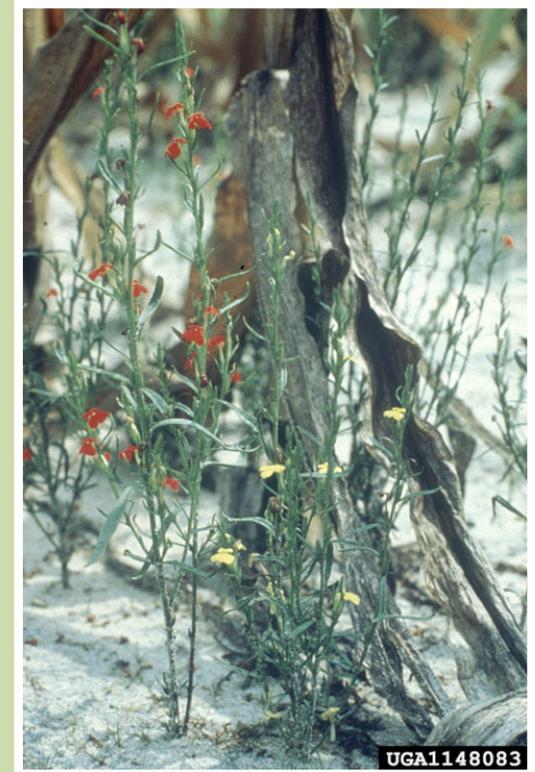
- Slender, 4-sided stems
- Narrow, opposite leaves
- Bright red flowers

Host Plants:

- Corn
- Sorghum
- Pearl millet
- Crabgrass
- Rice
- Sugar cane



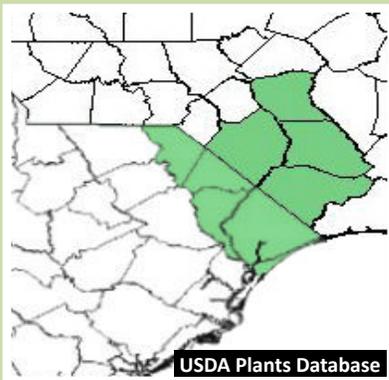
If you suspect witchweed, **DO NOT** try to uproot the plant.
Contact Clemson University Department of Plant Industry at (864) 646-2140 or invasives@clemson.edu.



Witchweed (*Striga asiatica* (L.) Kuntze)

U.S. Distribution:

- SC: Horry, Dillon, Marion and Marlboro counties
- NC: Cumberland, Robeson, Bladen and Columbus counties



Flowers:

- July through first frost
- Bright red
- 5 petals, bilabiate



Dust-like seeds of *Striga* placed next to metric ruler and a strand of human hair



After germination, *Striga* seeds develop hair-like structures that holds the parasite to its host's roots for incorporation into the vascular system. This underground stage is the most damaging to crops.



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