

WEEDWATCH

STANDING SENTINEL TO PROTECT PLANT HEALTH



PURPLE CUDWEED

Gnaphalium purpureum

IDENTIFICATION TIPS

- ▶ Purple cudweed is a low-growing winter or summer annual—or sometimes biennial, as some plants will survive into the second year to achieve maturity.
- ▶ It overwinters as a basal rosette, but it usually grows from an upright stem in the spring.
- ▶ Seed leaves and first true leaves have white to light gray woolly hairs.
- ▶ Mature plants are sparsely branched and grow 8 in. to 20 in. tall.
- ▶ Flower heads are crowded, spiked and densely

arranged on the stems or at the base of leaf stalks.

CONTROL TIPS

- ▶ Cudweed is a relatively easy weed to control. First, maintain a dense, actively growing turf through proper mowing, fertilization and irrigation.
- ▶ It's best to control purple cudweed in the spring or fall when actively growing. Two-, three- and four-way herbicides containing clopyralid provide good postemergent control. Apply to the plant before seed stalk formation.



CATCHWEED

Galium aparine

IDENTIFICATION TIPS

- ▶ Also known as rough bedstraw, this annual is commonly found in moist, shady areas.
- ▶ Seed leaves are oblong to egg-shaped with slightly notched tips. Mature leaves are whorled with six to eight leaves per whorl. Small, downward-curved prickles cover the stems and leaves.
- ▶ Small, four-parted white or greenish-white flowers grow on short branches originating in the leaf axils on the upper parts of the plant.

CONTROL TIPS

- ▶ Long-term cultural control requires removing existing plants before they flower and produce viable seed. Hand-weeding, followed by a layer of mulch, works well in landscape settings.
- ▶ To control in turfgrass or bare-ground areas, apply a postemergent herbicide containing florasulam when catchweed is actively growing. Florasulam can be applied at the same time the first fertilizer and liquid preemergent applications of the season are made.

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