

# HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?



NSW Agriculture

# Weed Alert

## Longleaf Willow Primrose

*Ludwigia longifolia*

A new invasive aquatic weed threatening  
NSW waterways and wetlands



Red winged stems and flowers of *Ludwigia longifolia*

### ■ WORLD STATUS

*Ludwigia longifolia*, also known as *Jussiaea longifolia*, a native of South America, grows naturally from Brazil to Argentina and is considered a major weed in its native range.

This species was introduced to Australia as an ornamental and was first recorded as naturalised near Sydney in 1991. In recent times it has been recorded from the Port Stephens and Gosford areas on the Central Coast of NSW.

### ■ QUARANTINE

All plant and seed material of *Ludwigia longifolia* have been assessed as a weed by the Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service (AQIS) and entry into Australia, either as nursery stock or seeds for sowing, is prohibited by legislation.

### ■ THE PROBLEM

*Ludwigia longifolia* can form dense colonies in slow moving waterways. If allowed to spread it will dominate tropical and sub-tropical wetlands and riparian vegetation. The impact may be similar to that of *Ludwigia peruviana*, which has already invaded wetlands around Sydney.

### ■ IDENTIFICATION

*Ludwigia longifolia* is an annual shrub up to 3 m high.

**Leaves and stems** - Leaves are alternate, up to 15 cm long and 2.5 cm wide reducing in size up the stem. Stems are red, narrow, winged and usually branch towards the apex.

Dense *Ludwigia* can completely block access to water bodies.



**Flowers** - Flowers are solitary and found in the junction of upper leaves and stems. Petals are yellow and 20–25 mm long. Flowering occurs from summer to winter.

**Fruit** - Fruit is oblong to narrow-oblong, 10–35 mm long, 4–8 mm wide with numerous minute seeds in each chamber.

Visit our website: [www.agric.nsw.gov.au/weeds](http://www.agric.nsw.gov.au/weeds)



NSW Agriculture

FOR MORE  
INFORMATION:

Contact your local  
council weeds officer  
or district agronomist,  
or telephone the  
NSW Agriculture Hotline  
on 1800 680 244.



Seed capsules are angular and contain numerous minute seeds.

## Watch out for and report *Ludwigia longifolia*:

This weed was introduced as an ornamental but entry into Australia of seed and nursery stock is now prohibited. If you have seen this plant, please report it to your Council Weeds Officer or NSW Agriculture.

### ■ PROPAGATION / DISPERSAL

Spread is by movement of seed and stem sections.

Seeds are extremely small, <1 mm long, and can be dispersed by water, wind, or human activity.

### ■ CONTROL

All plants should be removed before seed set and destroyed by burning or deep burial as these plants can regrow from stem cuttings.

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Photographs: P Gorbam



Flowers are solitary and found in the junction of upper leaves and stems.