WEEDWATCH

STANDING SENTINEL TO PROTECT PLANT HEALTH



MATCHWEED Lippia nodiflora

IDENTIFICATION TIPS

> This mat-forming perennial is commonly found south of the transition zone and along coastal areas.

> Opposite leaves with small teeth at the outer tip grow on hairy branching stems. Its stem is angular and rigid when rolled between the fingers.

> Purple to white flowers emerge around the tip of a brown seed stalk, forming a "match head" appearance.

> Matchweed spreads by seeds and stolons along prostrate stems.

CONTROL TIPS

> For optimum control, use a selective postemergent herbicide containing triclopyr and clopyralid when matchweed is in the four leaf to flower stage of growth.

> Maintain a healthy lawn by fertilizing and mowing at the proper height and frequency. Healthy grass can outcompete matchweed for light, water and nutrients to reduce the population.

> Matchweed prefers low, moist areas. Improve aeration to prevent infestations.



COMMON BURDOCK Arctium minus

IDENTIFICATION TIPS

> Also known as wild rhubarb, this biennial weed reproduces by seed.

> Seedlings emerge in early spring. The light-green, fleshy leaves are oval and slightly notched at the tips.

> In the second year, plants emerge from the root and can grow as tall as 10 feet.

> Adult leaves are triangular and coarsely veined. The upper surface is green and covered with stiff, straight hairs. The lower surface is whitish and woolly.

> A branched flower stalk

emerges from the center of the rosette. A corolla of rose-purple flowers covered in slender-hooked bracts form at the top of the stalks in late spring to mid-summer.

CONTROL TIPS

> Postemergent herbicides containing penoxsulam are most effective when applied in the first year during the rosette stage.

> Hand-pulling or digging can be an effective control method for small infestations if conducted prior to seed production. PHOTOS: J.M.GARG, WIKIMEDIA (LEFT); UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION

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For more information regarding these and other turf weeds — and related control technologies and tips — please visit www.DowProveslt.com or call 800/255-3726.

