

Scientific Name: *Iva axillaris*

Common name: Poverty weed

QUESTION	COMMENTS	REFERENCE	RANKING
Social			
1. Restrict human access?	A perennial herb commonly 20 cm to 30 cm high. It would not restrict human access.	P & C (2001)	L
2. Reduce tourism?	It produces dense aerial growth and its presence would be obvious. The leaves produce an unpleasant aromatic odour when crushed. This aspect of the plant may limit some recreational activities.	CDFA ¹	ML
3. Injurious to people?	“it causes contact dermatitis in some people while its abundant pollen has exacerbated hay-fever problems.”	P & C (2001)	MH
4. Damage to cultural sites?	As a strong competitor with dense aerial growth. It would create a negative visual effect seriously affecting the aesthetics of a site.	P & C (2001)	ML
Abiotic			
5. Impact flow?	Terrestrial species	P & C (2001)	L
6. Impact water quality?	Terrestrial species.	P & C (2001)	L
7. Increase soil erosion?	An extensive perennial root system to 2.5 metres deep consisting of both vertical and horizontal roots. Colonises cultivated land or overgrazed pastures. Aerial growth dies in autumn leaving the potential for surface soil erosion.	P & C (2001)	ML
8. Reduce biomass?	Invader replaces biomass.		L
9. Change fire regime?	Aerial growth dies in autumn. Little matter remains to establish or support fire.		L
Community Habitat			
10. Impact on composition (a) high value EVC	EVC=Plains grassy woodland (E); CMA=Wimmera; Bioreg=Wimmera; VH CLIMATE potential. In the U.S., it occurs mostly in grassland (rangeland) situations. It sometimes forms large clonal colonies on disturbed sites where it is difficult to eradicate. Major displacement of grasses/forbs in open situation. Effect in woodland situation may be limited.	P & C (2001)	MH
(b) medium value EVC	Distribution limited to northwest of Victoria. Limited data on EVC available. It does not appear to affect any medium value EVCs.		L
(c) low value EVC	As in 10(b) above.		L
11. Impact on structure?	“With its extensive root system and dense aerial growth, poverty weed competes strongly with other plants. Almost no crop is produced in heavily infested areas. Poverty weed is allelopathic.” Occurs in open disturbed or neglected areas. Likely to have a serious impact on the lower stratum in open situations.	P & C (2001)	ML
12. Effect on threatened flora?			

QUESTION	COMMENTS	REFERENCE	RANKING
Fauna			
13. Effect on threatened fauna?			
14. Effect on non-threatened fauna?	It, “competes strongly with other plants...and large areas of infested pasture in western Canada have little or no grazing value.” As it is not grazed by livestock, its presence would lead to a reduction in available food for native species.	P & C (2001)	ML
15. Benefits fauna?	No known benefits.		H
16. Injurious to fauna?	In Canada “there have been reports that poverty weed is a selenium accumulator and may be toxic to livestock when ingested. However, this is very rare due to the unpalatable nature of the plant.” Not considered toxic.	CDFA	L
Pest Animal			
17. Food source to pests?	No known as a food source to pests.		L
18. Provides harbor?	Low growth habit of plant would not provide harbor.		L
Agriculture			
19. Impact yield?	“It is highly competitive when established in agricultural fields and may significantly reduce crop yields.” “Almost no crop is produced in heavily infested areas.” Major impact on production.	CDFA P & C (2001)	H
20. Impact quality?	“Its seeds are a common contaminant of legume and grass seed crops in some areas.” Impact not documented, though contaminated crop may be difficult to sell due to the competitive nature of the weed.	P & C (2001)	MH
21. Affect land value?	Its impact on yield in both grazing and cropping situations, and the difficulty in controlling the plant, suggest land value may be seriously affected.		H
22. Change land use?	“...cultivation and repeated workings over 3 years in Canada did not eliminate the weed...herbicides offering the only effective treatment. Large areas of grazing land in Canada have little or no grazing value.” Potential for significant agricultural loss.	P & C (2001)	H
23. Increase harvest costs?	No known effect on harvest costs.		L
24. Disease host/vector?	None evident.		L

¹ California Department of Food and Agriculture, *Poverty Sumpweed or Povertyweed*, <http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/phpps/ipc/weedinfo/iva-axillaris.htm>, viewed 15/04/03