Topic: Large-flower Pusley in St. Augustinegrass

Question: My neighbor has weeds all over his yard that are a mass of blue flowers. I have seen these weeds in many yards and lots. They have long runners. They are starting to invade my lawn and I would like to get rid of them. I have St Augustinegrass. What commercial product can I use?
- B.K., email

Answer: The weed is large-flower pusley, *Richardia grandiflora*. This is a prodigious weed with countless numbers of white, blue, pink or violet flowers. Large-flower pusley is native to South America and has adapted well to its new south Florida habitat, primarily St. Augustinegrass lawns. The herbicide used to control it is Atrazine or Image plus Atrazine. Atrazine can be found in liquid or granular forms. The liquid formulation gives much better control of large-flower pusley and other weeds than the granular form. The former should have a 4.0% concentration. The latter, the granular form, is usually blended with fertilizer and sold as Weed & Feed. As a granular, the Atrazine concentration is usually less than 1%, not sufficiently concentrated to manage large-flower pusley. Several applications, several weeks apart will be necessary for noticeable control. Do not use Atrazine when temperature rises above 88°F.

Useful Links

Large-flower Pusley Power Point
Stephen’s Webpage

Stephen Brown is a horticulture agent with the Lee County Extension Service. Submit questions by calling the horticulture desk at 533-7504 between 9 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. or by brownsh@leegov.com. 11/26/11