

Cooperative Extension System, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, University of Guam, UOG Station, Mangilao, GU 96923



Close-up of dodder showing flowers and fruits.

Scientific Name: *Cuscuta campestris* L.

Family: Convolvulaceae

Common Name: Dodder



Infestation of dodder on chinese cabbage.

This peculiar plant is a parasite of other plants. It is leafless with slender orange or yellow stems. The vines have suckers or holdfasts that penetrate the leaves and stems of other plants and remove the sap from the host. This weed is a widespread pest found from Polynesia to Africa. Dodder is an aggressive weed that grows on many different plants including field crops, ornamentals, weeds, trees and forest plants. The white flowers appear in clusters along the vines. Seeds are produced in large quantities and are easily spread if the vines are disturbed.

Control:

Mechanical: It is difficult to remove the vines from host plants. The vines and hosts should be burned in place to prevent the spreading of seeds.

Chemical: Control may be possible with Dacthal (DCPA), glyphosate (Roundup) or Urea. The host plants will also be damaged or destroyed along with the weed. Consult with an Agricultural Extension Agent. You can contact an agent by calling 734-2575, 734-2579, 734-2518 or 734-4753.

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