

# Ageratum conyzoides

## Tropic ageratum

*Ageratum conyzoides* L.

Family: Asteraceae

**Description:** Herbaceous, hairy plant to 2 ft tall. Leaves simple, alternate, margins scalloped, 4 inches long by 3 inches wide. Flower heads in flat-topped clusters, bluish lavender to white. Seed a tiny, rough achene (dry, single-seed fruit). An ornamental in commerce. *Ageratum* is Greek for not growing old, because the flowers retain their color for a long time<sup>(70)</sup>; *conyzoides*, *Conyza*-like, *Conyza* being a related genus<sup>(5)</sup>.

**Distribution:** From tropical America. A weed of the humid tropics. Naturalized in Hawai'i by 1871. Common in Hawai'i, in dry to high-rainfall pastures, roadsides, vacant lands, and parks at sea level to 3900 ft elevation<sup>(26, 70)</sup>.

**Environmental impact:** A weed in many crops in the tropics and subtropics. Displaces forages in humid pastures and understory plants in disturbed forests. Seeds reportedly stick in throats of livestock and can choke and kill them. A weed in many crops and pastures<sup>(26)</sup>.



**Management:** Sensitive to 2,4-D and probably to all hormone-type dicot killers. Goats will control ageratum (An Peischel).