

Pluchea carolinensis

Sourbush

Pluchea carolinensis (Jacq.) G. Don
Syn. *P. symphytifolia*, *P. odorata*

Family: Asteraceae

Description: Aromatic branched shrub from tropical America, to 10 feet tall. Leaves to 8 inches long by 3 inches wide, alternate, dull gray-green on upper surface, lower surface pale, usually hairy, margins entire. Flower heads lavender in large flat-topped inflorescence. Seeds small thin thistles. Recently reclassified⁽⁷⁰⁾ so it is listed in recent literature as *P. symphytifolia* and in older literature as *P. odorata*. Genus named in honor of 18th century French naturalist Noel Pluche⁽⁷⁰⁾; *carolinensis*, of the Carolinas⁽⁶⁹⁾; *odorata*, malodorous; *symphytifolia*, meaning unclear⁽⁶⁹⁾.

Distribution: Native of tropical America. Collected on O‘ahu in 1931. Common in pastures, forests, roadsides, and vacant lots in drier environments to wet areas throughout state. Also on Kure and Midway atolls and French Frigate Shoals⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Displaces forages in pastures and natives in natural areas.



Management: Sensitive to 1lb/acre 2,4-D, 0.5 lb/acre dicamba, and 0.25 lb/acre triclopyr. Readily controlled by 0.5 lb/acre triclopyr in drizzle applications⁽⁵⁶⁾. HAVO staff reported control with foliar application of glyphosate at 1% product. (Chris Zimmer, HAVO).