

Tagetes minuta

Stinkweed

Tagetes minuta L.

Family: Asteraceae

Description: Malodorous erect annual herb to 3 ft tall. Stems grooved, brownish to reddish. Leaves pinnately compound, leaflets 9–17, narrow, margins serrate. Numerous flat-topped flower heads, corolla orangish yellow. Seeds are achenes, black, flat, 0.3 inches long. Each plant can produce over 29,000 seeds of which 95% are viable. Long used in various cultures for many purposes: a relish, vegetable, medicine, flavoring, stimulant, and snuff. Named for Etruscan god *Tagetes*, the Latin name-sake of marigold; *minuta*, small, for the flowers^(5, 26, 70).

Distribution: A serious weed of crops, orchards, and pastures in Africa and elsewhere in the tropics. In the Middle East, a serious weed, after a 10–30 year lag, in the Golan Heights area⁽²⁶⁾. Favors high-fertility soils. In Hawai‘i, occurs in Pōhakuloa, the saddle area between Mauna Kea and Mauna Loa, but is spreading along Māmalahoa Highway toward Kona.

Environmental impact: Has not yet formed the dense stands reported elsewhere but is rapidly spreading. Reports from other areas in the world indicate it can become dominant.



Management: Probably sensitive to triclopyr and perhaps to other hormone-type herbicides.