Tropical chickweed is an invasive plant which can disrupt native flora communities and ecosystems.

Tropical chickweed (also known as 'sticky weed') grows as a weed in moist and sheltered lawns, gardens, pastures, forest floors and disturbed areas. With a winter growth period, the weed is strongly competitive with most grasses.

Pastures can be degraded, as it provides little grazing value and tends to cause the soil to hold water and become boggy.

For many people, the weed creates a significant nuisance problem as the sticky flowers and seed heads tangle in animal hair and cover clothing and shoes. These sticky seed heads also make it very easily spread from place to place.

**Description**

Tropical chickweed is thought to be a rainforest native that has adapted to grow in other moist and sheltered areas. It grows as a weakly stemmed sprawling herb. The rounded leaves are pale green in colour and sit opposite each other along the stem. Flowers are small and white, growing in open clusters at the end of the stems. They have small hairs which make them stick to clothing and animal hair. The weed grows prolifically in winter and tends to die back in summer.

**Management**

Mowing or slashing will not control this plant.

Individual plants can be hand pulled. Care must be taken to remove all the root system and stems, as it will quickly regenerate from these pieces.

Small areas in gardens can be successfully treated by heavily mulching the area for a period of 4-6 months.

If you would like further information on weeds look at the A–Z Listing of Weeds at [Queensland Government Website](https://www.qld.gov.au).