

Cuscuta Weed in Onion

Cuscuta campestris. Dodder



Dodder on host. (© Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org)



Dodder flowers and stem. (© Kristian Peters, via Wikipedia)

Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control	Direct Control	Restrictions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use certified clean seed for growing crops; seeds considered as the main means of spread • Seeds can travel on animals, do not allow animals into an affected area • Clean tools and farm machinery to prevent seeds being spread • Report to village extension officers immediately after you have seen a plant before spreading • Remove alternative host of the weed i.e. <i>Solanum nigrum</i>, <i>Amaranthus</i> species, <i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>, <i>Chenopodium album</i> • Crop rotation with non host crops i.e cotton or cereals • Seeds are transported by water - Prevent water runoff from infested land to prevent seed introduction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual parasitic plant without green colour often sprouting over the plant without contact with soil, stem is wiry, yellow to pale orange. Leaves are tiny, flowers are white in clusters 2mm in diameter • Regularly check sites for infestation and immediately take action 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove infested plants by hand and burn immediately • Do not leave any parts of the weed on ground as they can take root and grow • After handling cuscuta always clean hands thoroughly before tending to other crops to avoid spread of seeds and new infestations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of chemical herbicides may lead to the development of herbicide resistance. • When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval. • Currently no chemical control available for the weed 	

Tanzania

CREATED/UPDATED: February 2016

AUTHOR(S): Fridah Mgonja and Abdul Kudra

EDITED BY: Plantwise

