

WEEDS ON COCONUT LANDS AND THEIR CONTROL

(Continued)

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SOME COMMON WEEDS AND THEIR CONTROL

No. 2 — *Eupatorium Odoratum*

Eupatorium Odoratum is a weed which has established itself in all environments, on almost all soil types and ranges of climate.

It is a woody shrub which grows erect reaching a height of five to six feet and belongs to the family Compositae (Plate VI) usually flowering in December and January; large numbers of tiny seeds are produced and spread by wind (Plate VII).

Control of scattered plants and small infestations could be achieved by the systematic up-rooting of the plants before seeding.

Once established uprooting is an expensive problem. The tap root is massive and deep and unless it is completely pulled out, and if only cut at ground level fresh growth begins and numerous branches reappear. It is easy to uproot in the early stages, as otherwise the root becomes bulbous.

No. 3 — *Euphorbia geniculata*

Euphorbia geniculata is a recent introduction which has made its appearance on coconut estates not more than ten years ago and has now firmly established itself in coconut estates of the Chilaw District.

This weed belongs to the Natural order Euphorbiaceae and is quick growing, the plant developing to maturity and producing seeds in barely three months. It seeds profusely and the shed seeds remain viable for a long time (Plate VIII).

Discharrowing is the only economical method of control and should be done before flowering.

