

This WEED REPORT does not constitute a formal recommendation. When using herbicides always read the label, and when in doubt consult your farm advisor or county agent.

This WEED REPORT is an excerpt from the book *Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States* and is available wholesale through the UC Weed Research & Information Center (wric.ucdavis.edu) or retail through the Western Society of Weed Science (wsweedscience.org) or the California Invasive Species Council (cal-ipc.org).

Veronica anagallis-aquatica L.

Water speedwell

Family: Scrophulariaceae

Range: Throughout the United States.

Habitat: Near aquatic environments, including ditches, slow streams, pond and stream margins, wet meadows, and marshy places.

Origin: Native to Europe.

Impacts: Can form dense stands in aquatic systems and impede the flow of water. Also weedy in Canada and South America.

Water speedwell is an emergent biennial or perennial to 3 ft tall, with glabrous opposite leaves. Plants typically develop a system of rhizomes and/or stolons. The stems are erect to spreading, sometimes creeping and often rooting at lower nodes. The leaves are usually sessile and 1 to 4 inches long with a smooth to serrate margin.

Inflorescences are axillary racemes opposite each other. Flowers are deeply 4-lobed, 5 to 10 mm in diameter, and pale lavender-blue with darker lines. The fruit are flattened, nearly round capsules with a distinctive notch at the apex. Plants reproduce by seed and vegetatively from rhizomes and/or stolons. Seeds disperse with water and soil and can germinate year round under favorable conditions. Seeds are small, and while there is no information on their longevity in the soil seedbank, it is expected that they would not survive more than a couple of years.



NON-CHEMICAL CONTROL

Mechanical (pulling, cutting, disking)	Although plants are very brittle, care must be taken when using hand removal techniques, as fragmented plants can be the source of new infestations in aquatic settings. Because plants are nearly always found in aquatic setting, tillage is not typically appropriate.
Cultural	Because water speedwell is most often found in ditches, canals and other aquatic areas, it is not appropriate to use grazing or prescribed burning as a control option.
Biological	There are no biological control agents available for water speedwell.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Little information has been published on the control of water speedwell. Information on control was obtained though literature on herbicides used to control other speedwell species. It is expected that they will also have activity on water speedwell.

The following specific use information is based on reports by researchers and land managers. Other trade names may be available, and other compounds also are labeled for this weed. Directions for use may vary between brands; see label before use.

AROMATIC AMINO ACID INHIBITORS

Glyphosate <i>Rodeo</i> , <i>Aquamaster</i>	Rate: 1 to 3 lb product (<i>Rodeo</i> or <i>Aquamaster</i>)/acre (0.5 to 1.5 lb a.e./acre). Wiper treatment: 33 to 50% of concentrated product. Timing: Postemergence, to rapidly growing plants. Remarks: Glyphosate is a nonselective product with no soil activity. A wiper applicator can give more selective control.
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RECOMMENDED CITATION: DiTomaso, J.M., G.B. Kyser et al. 2013. *Weed Control in Natural Areas in the Western United States*. Weed Research and Information Center, University of California. 544 pp.