



## HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

It is an Emergent Invasive in Orange County

### SUMMER CYPRESS

*Kochia scoparia*

[Known OC Sites & Status Updates](#)

Distribution map & info:

- [calflora.org/cgi-bin/species\\_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=4537](http://calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=4537)
- [cal-ipc.org/ip/management/plant\\_profiles/Kochia\\_scoparia.php](http://cal-ipc.org/ip/management/plant_profiles/Kochia_scoparia.php)

Can be confused with:

- Five-hook Bassia, *Bassia hyssopifolia*



Flowers & sets seed Aug.-Nov. The seed is dispersed by wind & water. The whole plant detaches and rolls on the wind as a tumbleweed. The seed does not persist in the soil seed bank, dying within about a year if it fails to germinate.



Summer Cypress is a large summer-fall annual herb that grows most commonly on saline/alkaline soils in grassland, prairie, and desert shrub ecosystems. It may spread & mound to 8 ft. in ideal conditions.

It was introduced from Eurasia for forage & erosion control. Its seeds are edible & used in traditional medicine.





**SUMMER CYPRESS, P. 2**



Summer Cypress, L, & Five-Hook Bassia, R, are nearly indistinguishable except when in fruit.



**IF YOU SEE THIS PLANT AT A SITE THAT'S NOT ON THE LIST:**

- Record the plant's location as exactly as you can (GPS coordinates if possible), the date you saw it, and an estimate of how many there were. Include the site's landowner or manager, if known.
- Take identifying photos: the whole plant & its surroundings, closeups of leaves, flowers & fruits/pods.
- If you take a sample, place it immediately into a sealed bag.
- To avoid spreading the plant, check your clothing and shoes thoroughly before leaving the area, and remove and bag all traces of seeds.
- Report the find immediately to **invasives@occnps.org**.