

# Dodder: *Cuscuta* spp.



**D**odder is a genus of over 100 species of yellow, orange or red (rarely green) parasitic plants. The genus is found throughout the temperate to tropical regions of the world. Dodder attaches itself to a plant by wrapping around the plant. If the host is beneficial to the Dodder, it produces an appendage, called “haustoria,” that is inserted into the vascular system of the host plant. The original root of the dodder is no longer needed and dies off.



The Dodder can grow and attach itself to multiple plants and in tropical areas it can grow more or less continuously, and may reach high into the canopy of shrubs and trees.

