

Palmer amaranth

Amaranthus palmeri

Description

Considered one of the most troublesome, widespread, and economically damaging agricultural weed in the United States.

Habit

Summer annual that reaching a height of 6-8 ft. but can sometimes grow to 10 ft. or more.

Leaves

Petiole longer than leaf, alternate, ovate to diamond-shaped, some leaves have a whitish chevron or v shaped mark on them.

Stems

Tall, erect, branching, 6-8 sometimes 10 ft or more in height.

Flowers

Male and female flowers borne on separate plants. Small, inconspicuous, clustered tightly in linear or sparingly branched terminal spikes, 18 in. long.





Fruits and Seeds

Shiny, dark reddish brown to brown in color,
1-1.2 mm. in diameter.

Habitat

Native to southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Can be found typically in hot, arid habitats but can also be found in crop fields and disturbed sites.

Reproduction

By seed. Capable of producing 250,000 seeds per plant.

Similar

Native pigweed such as tall waterhemp (*Amaranthus tuberculatus*), redroot pigweed (*Amaranthus retroflexus*), Smooth pigweed (*Amaranthus hybridus*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Mowing alone is not effective. The use of cereal rye cover crops can reduce germination and growth. Resistant to multiple herbicides including ALS inhibitors, triazines, HPPD inhibitors, dinitroanilines, and glyphosate.

Credits

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