

2017 Weed Identification Series



Photo by: Devin Hammer



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Photo by: Pommy Buttes

Tall/Common Waterhemp

Annual broadleaf that germinates April – August. Commonly found in agronomic and horticultural crops as well as highly disturbed areas.

Leaves: Lance or spearhead shaped, 3-6 in long that alternate on the stem. Petiole is shorter than the length of the leaf blade.

Stem: Typically, 4-5 ft tall, but can grow > 10 ft. Lacks hair on the stem.

Flowers: Many small green flowers form an inflorescence in July-September. While the terminal inflorescence can be > 1 ft long, many wiry lateral branches occur throughout the inflorescence. Male and female flowers found on separate plants, and can on occasion turn pink – red as they mature.

Similar Plants: This plant is often confused with other common pigweeds, especially palmer and spiny amaranth as they also have no hairs on stems. Palmer amaranth can be differentiated by the petiole as it is longer than its leaf blade unlike Waterhemp. Spiny amaranth has distinct spines below leaves. For more information including a video see visit the [report-a-pigweed link](#) below.

Herbicide Resistance:

In Wisconsin resistance to glyphosate has been confirmed in 16 counties and resistance to glyphosate and PPO-inhibitors in one county. It is also believed that many populations are also resistant to ALS herbicides but few have been tested. In nearby states much higher levels of resistance to these and other modes of actions of herbicides have been detected. Currently nearby states have Waterhemp populations resistant to five different herbicide modes of action.