

2017 Weed Identification Series



Watermark



Photo by: Bob Hartzler



Photo by: Devin Hammer

Palmer Amaranth

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

Leaves: Diamond or spade shaped, 3-6 in long that alternate on the stem and have a small hair at the tip of the leaf. Petiole is longer than the length of the leaf blade on mature leaves. Leaves can also have a watermark but many plants lack this trait.

Stem: Typically 3-5 feet tall, but can grow > 6 ft. Lacks hair on the stems.

Flowers: Many small green flowers form 1-3 ft long inflorescences starting in July. Inflorescences can vary in branching, but lateral branches can be > 6 in long. Male and female flowers found on separate plants. Female seed heads are prickly to touch due to

sharp bracts; male seed heads are soft as they do not contain the sharp bract.

Similar Plants: This plant is often confused with other common pigweeds, especially waterhemp and spiny amaranth. Spiny amaranth has a distinct spine below leaves. Waterhemp can be differentiated from Palmer by the petiole as it is shorter than its leaf blade unlike Palmer. 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 2 counties and resistance to HPPD and ALS inhibitors in one county. In nearby states much higher levels of resistance to these and other modes of actions of herbicides have been detected. Currently nearby states have Palmer populations resistant to multiple modes of action.