

2017 Weed Identification Series



Watermark



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Palmer Amaranth

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

Leaves: Diamond or spade shaped, 3-6 in long, 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 ft tall, but can grow > 6 ft. *Lacks hair on the stem.*

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, which also lack hairs on the stem. Waterhemp petioles are shorter than its leaf blades. Spiny amaranth has a distinct spine below leaves. For more information, visit the Report a Pigweed [website](#).

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 herbicide modes of actions have been detected. Nearby states have Palmer amaranth populations resistant to multiple herbicide modes of action.