

PALMER AMARANTH

Amaranthus palmeri, otherwise known as Palmer Amaranth or Palmer Pigweed is a broadleaf weed native to the Southern Half of North America. Once cultivated by Native Americans, it was prized for its ability to produce large amounts of vegetation and vast amounts of seeds. This prolific nature is the reason why today Palmer Amaranth is identified as a noxious weed.

“Palmer” is an extremely aggressive plant. Growing 2 to 3 inches per day, it can out compete any field crop. Plants can produce as many as 100,000 –500,000 seeds. In addition, it has dioecious reproduction, meaning there are male and female plants. Through this process, one plant is able to rapidly pass its herbicide resistant traits onto the next generation. In-field tests revealed that Palmer was able withstand up to nearly 200 oz. per acre levels of glyphosate applications as well as other ALS inhibiting herbicides.



CONTROL

It is resistant to glyphosate (group 9) and ALS inhibitors (group 2) and cannot be controlled by burndown or post emergence applications of glyphosate alone.

Plants with mature seed should be bagged and removed from field. Plants without mature seed (black) should be pulled out (uprooted) or cut off just below soil and removed from field, and then burned or buried at least a foot deep or composted.

Do not run the combine through Palmer patches.

When purchasing used equipment, know where it has been previously. Avoid purchase of combines that come from Palmer-infested areas. Know where custom harvesting equipment has been previously.

IF FOUND

Please contact OSU Extension at 513-887-3722

IDENTIFICATION

Differentiating Palmer Amaranth from other Pigweed species can be tricky. However, Palmer has several unique identifying features that make it stand out from other species.

Petiole Length



It is much easier to distinguish Palmer from Waterhemp once the plants have started flowering. Palmer seedheads tend to be thicker (up to 1” in diameter) than those of Waterhemp. Terminal branches of Palmer are long, sometimes exceeding three feet in length.

Leaves sometimes have white or purple chevrons.



Female seed heads have stiff, sharp bracts making them prickly when touched.

Palmer has been identified in several Ohio counties including Preble, Darke, Clinton, and Highland. Commonly found in dairy feed additives such as cottonseed hulls and found in dairy manure, producers are urged with great caution when importing feed additives from the South and when importing manure from other farms.



Find out more at
www.ButlerSWCD.org

