

REDROOT PIGWEED

Amaranthus retroflexus, otherwise known as Redroot Pigweed or Pigweed is a broadleaf weed native to the Southern Half of North America. Grown by Native Americans it was cherished for its use as an herb. Eaten as a vegetable in different parts of the world, it is a great nitrate scavenger. Due to its prolific nature it has proven to be problematic in row crop farming.

Redroot Pigweed grows rapidly and is hard to control with conventional herbicides. Reaching 3-6ft in height it grows well above the canopy of shorter row crops. Just like other weeds in the amaranth family, Redroot Pigweed can also produce thousands of seeds in a growing season and quickly take over a field.



CONTROL

Often surviving early season attempts to kill it, pigweeds can become a significant problem later in the season for soybean growers.

Adjustments to pre-plant herbicide programs are the best method to control. Becoming resistant PPO and ALS inhibitor herbicides it is best to use multiple modes of action for effective control.

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

IF FOUND

Please contact Butler SWCD 513-887-3720 or

OSU Extension at 513-887-3722

IDENTIFICATION

Differentiating Redroot Pigweed from other amaranth species can be difficult, especially at a young age. Refer to these images to help you determine what species you have in your field.

Seedhead Differences



Rose colored veins in the leaf, petiole, and roots are the easiest way to determine. Undersides of leaves can be red in color

Young leaves often have a waxy appearance to them. Petioles will be shorter than the leaf when folded over.



Pigweed can be found in every Ohio county as well as neighboring states. Early Spring rains that prevent burn down and post emergence herbicide programs allow pigweed to get an early jump on growth and can soon become a pest. Fall burn down has also proven to be effective in control as weeds become more adapted at over wintering.



Find out more at
www.ButlerSWCD.org

