

Who Am I? – Name the Pest of the Week:



An introduced weed with a wide range of other names including Baconweed, chou grass, fat-hen, frost-blite, mealweed, pitseed goosefoot, white goosefoot, white pigweed, wild spinach. The term pigweed can lead to confusion in selection of the correct chemical control products.



Figure 1. Side view of plant

Biology: A common annual broadleaf weed that grows erect, and up to 2 meters height, with a central stem and many branches that sometimes are striped with pink or purple. Leaves are alternate (Figure 1) on the stems and somewhat triangular in shape. Leaf margins may vary from slightly lobed to smooth. Leaves grow on long stalks.

Seeds germinate from early spring through autumn, with plants maturing as early as mid-summer. The cotyledon shape is elongated to elliptical. Seedlings can be distinguished by the pinkish underside of the cotyledons and the silvery or mealy appearance of the leaf (Figure 2).

Small green flowers are tightly clustered at the tips of branches.



Figure 2. Mealy or silvery surface appearance

Herbicide Resistance: Herbicide resistance is known in many countries but has been present in Ontario to the Photosystem II inhibitor (Group 5) atrazine since the early 1970s. Resistance is also confirmed to the ALS inhibitors (Group 2) thifensulfuron-methyl in Ontario and Saskatchewan.

Similar Weeds: The variability of this species can complicate identification. There are a number of closely related species which can be difficult to distinguish from this weed including:

- Maple-leaved goosefoot *Chenopodium gigantospermum*, which has thin green leaves
- Oak-leaved goosefoot *Chenopodium glaucum*, which is shorter with smaller leaves
- Net-seeded goosefoot *Chenopodium berlandieri*, which has thicker leaves
- Late flowering goosefoot *Chenopodium strictum*, which has shallow teeth on the lower leaves

Weed Act Status: A noxious weed in Manitoba

