

Who Am I? – Name the Pest of the Week: Lamb's Quarters (*Chenopodium album*)

Lamb's Quarters (*Chenopodium album*), an introduced weed, has a wide range of common names including baconweed, chou grass, fat-hen, frost-blite, mealweed, pitseed goosefoot, white goosefoot, white pigweed and wild spinach. Often confused with Red Root Pigweed which can lead to confusion in selection of the correct chemical control products.



Figure 1. Side view

Biology: A common annual broadleaf weed, its growth is erect, up to 2 meters in height, with a central stem and many branches. The alternate leaves are sometimes striped with pink or purple (Figure 1) on the stems and are 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 is elongated to elliptical. Seedlings can be distinguished by the pinkish underside of the cotyledons and the silvery or mealy appearance of the leaf underside (Figure 2).

Lamb's Quarters' flowers are small, green and tightly clustered at the tips of stems and branches. It can produce an average of 72,000 seeds per plant.



Figure 2. Mealy surface appearance on underside of leaves

Similar Weeds: The variability of the appearance of Lamb's Quarters can complicate identification. There are a number of closely related species which can be difficult to distinguish from lambs-quarters 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

