

# Pigweed Identification Guide

A number of pigweed species are found in Ohio. These species can become very problematic and reduce crop yields. Pigweed identification can be difficult, especially at the seedling stage of growth. This guide will help in making a correct identification based on typical pigweed characteristics.

Pigweed with hair on stems and leaves

Pigweed with no hair on stems and leaves

Smooth/redroot pigweed

Waterhemp

Palmer amaranth

Spiny amaranth



Egg-shaped to round leaves

Long narrow leaves with short petioles

Petioles as long or longer than the leaf

¼ to ½ inch spines at leaf axils – very long and sharp



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[u.osu.edu/osuweeds/](http://u.osu.edu/osuweeds/)  
[youtube.com/osuweeds](https://youtube.com/osuweeds)

Palmer amaranth  
*Amaranthus palmeri*





Waterhemp  
*Amaranthus rudis*

No hair on leaves or stem



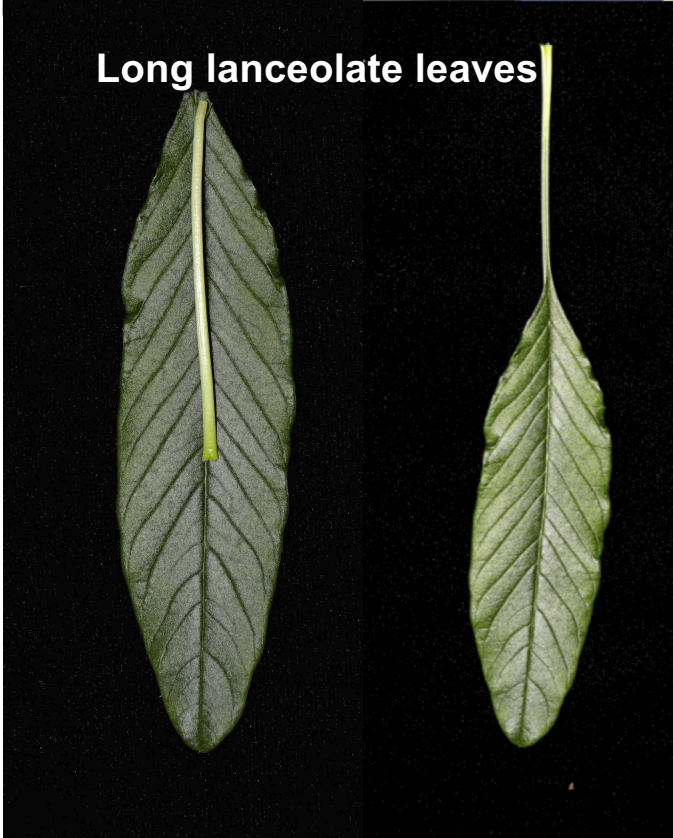
Male waterhemp



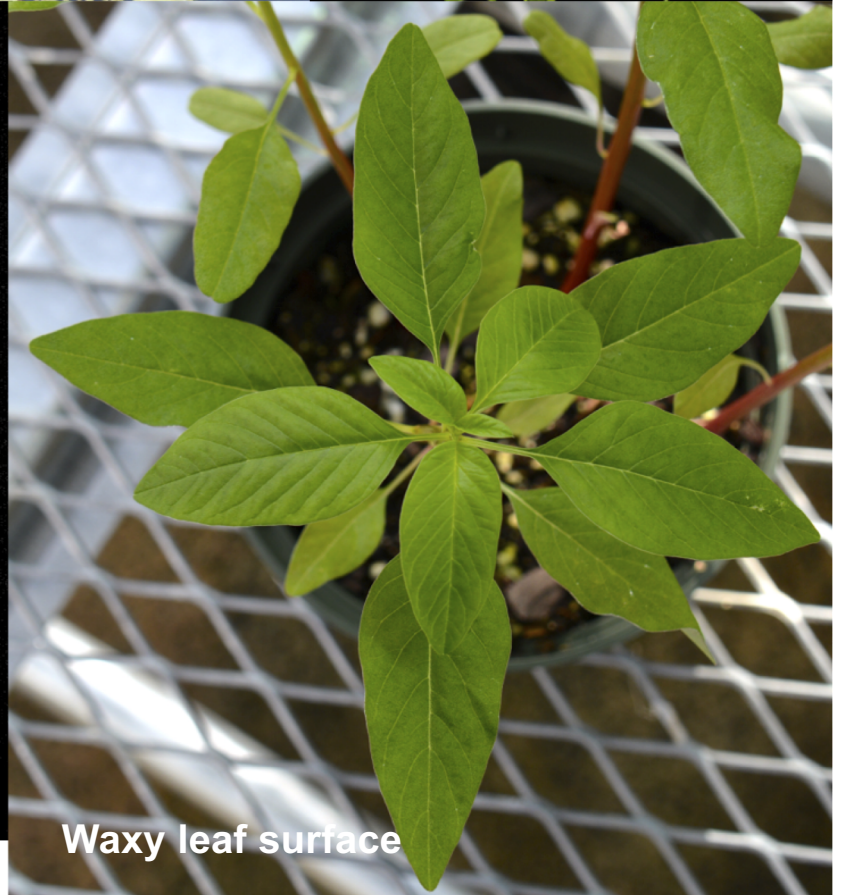
Female waterhemp



Long lanceolate leaves

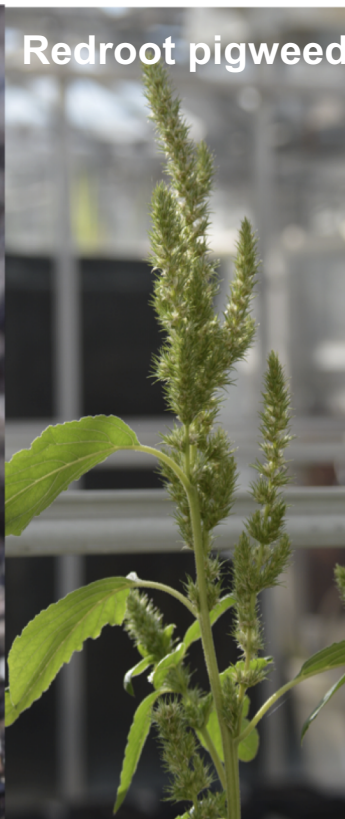


Waxy leaf surface





Smooth/redroot pigweed  
*Amaranthus hybridus/retroflexus*



Authors: Bruce Ackley and Mark Loux, Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State University. Revised 11/17

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