

# LAMB'S QUARTERS

## IS THIS ANNUAL PLANT A PROBLEM?

**YES.** It's an edible plant (cook it like spinach) that's sometimes grown as an agricultural crop.

- **BUT** it spreads **QUICKLY**, competes with other plants and uses a lot of water.
- In some conditions it can accumulate **HIGH LEVELS** of nitrates, oxalates, or sulphates and become toxic to livestock.

## HOW DOES IT GROW?

- Has short, branched taproots.
- Each plant has about **72,000** seeds!
- Seeds can survive for **40 YEARS** but will only grow if they are near the soil surface.
- Grows in **DISTURBED** soil in sunny places.
- Often found in vegetable gardens.

## HOW TO CONTROL?

- It's **EASY** to kill by weeding or hoeing.
- Don't let it go to seed.
- Cover seeds with mulch and leave them buried - **DON'T** till the soil.

## HOW TO IDENTIFY?

- New growth and the underside of older leaves dusted with mealy white powder.
- Leaves usually have **WAVY** or **JAGGED** edges and can be different shapes.
- Flowers are small, green, and have no petals.
- Stem is upright with **MANY** branches.
- Plants are **EASY** to pull out.



*Chenopodium  
album*

**Sources:** Colorado State University. *Guide to Poisonous Plants*.  
Royer, F. and Dickinson, R. *Weeds of Canada and the Northern United States*. 1999.  
Weedinfo.ca: Lamb's-quarters, Ontario Weed Committee, 2022.

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