

## Lambsquarters

### *Chenopodium album* L.

#### Alternate Names

Pigweed, white goosefoot

#### Synonyms

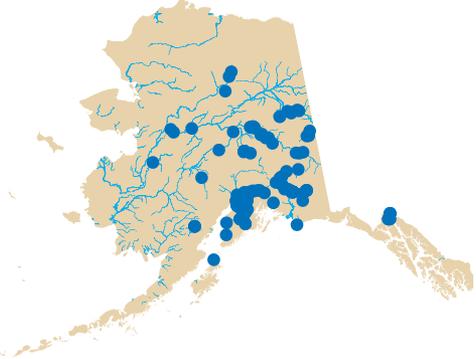
*Chenopodium album* L. var. *lanceolatum* (Muhl. Ex Willd.) Coss & Germ., *Chenopodium album* L. var. *polymorphum* Aellen, *Chenopodium amaranticolor* Coste & Reyn., *Chenopodium gigantum* D. Don, *Chenopodium lanceolatum* Muhl. Ex Willd., *Chenopodium suecicum* J. Murr.

#### Description

Common lambsquarters is an extremely variable plant that ranges in height from 2 inches to 3½ feet tall. It is an annual plant with bluish green stems that are branched, grooved, and sometimes blotched with red or purple. Its leaves are alternate, simple, green above, and mealy-white below. Leaf shape may be triangular, diamond-shaped, or lance-shaped. Flowers are minute and clustered into dense panicles. It blooms from June to September.

#### Similar Species

Common lambsquarters is distinct from other native and exotic Alaskan *Chenopodium* species in having a combination of smooth seeds and broad, green leaves. It can only be differentiated from the native Zschack's goosefoot (*Chenopodium berlandieri* Moq.) by smooth, rather than reticulated, seed coats.



USDA Forest Service photo by Elizabeth Bella

**Management**

Common lambsquarters can be controlled by mechanical and chemical methods. It is resistant to some common herbicides and susceptible to others, although it does not normally persist at a site without repeated disturbance.

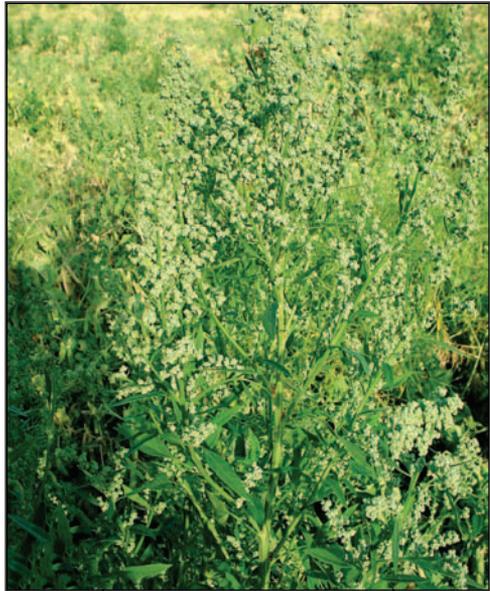
**Notes**

Common lambsquarters was introduced from Europe as an edible herb and is still grown and gathered as a salad green.



*XID Services photo by Richard Old*

*Varied leaves of lambsquarters.*



*XID Services photo by Richard Old*