

# REDROOT PIGWEEED

## IS THIS ANNUAL PLANT A PROBLEM?

**YES.** It's an edible plant in the Amaranth family. **BUT** spreads **QUICKLY** and competes with other plants.

- In some conditions it can accumulate **HIGH LEVELS** of nitrates or oxalates, and become toxic to livestock.
- Can cause allergic reactions.

## HOW DOES IT GROW?

- Often found near lamb's quarters.
- Grows in full sun in disturbed, moist, fertile soil.
- Seeds need light and a 15°C soil temp.
- Frequently grows in vegetable gardens; rarely found in lawns.
- Spreads by seed – typically produces between 10,000 and 30,000 seeds.
- Seeds can live in soil for up to **40 YEARS**.

## HOW TO CONTROL?

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

## HOW TO IDENTIFY?

- Young plants are reddish-purple on the underside of leaves, and at the base of stems.
- Has clusters of non-descript, green, bristly flower spikes, up to 20cm long.
- Pink or reddish taproot.
- Upright stems grow up to a metre tall, with angular branches.



*Amaranthus retroflexus*

**Sources:** Colorado State University. *Guide to Poisonous Plants*.  
Province of British Columbia. *Guide to Weeds in British Columbia*, 2002.  
Royer, F. and Dickinson, R. *Weeds of Canada and the Northern United States*, 1999.

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