

# TALL WATERHEMP

## Tier 1

### Overview



This member of the pigweed family can rapidly establish patches and seriously decrease the yield of crops. The plant typically grows to 5 or 6 feet tall, with glossy, hairless, and more elongated leaves (lanceolate) compared to redroot or smooth pigweed. Waterhemp is well-adapted to warm growing temperatures and intense sunlight and is capable of producing up to a million seeds per plant that tend to germinate throughout the summer.

### Habitat

Tall Waterhemp predominantly grows in wet habitats, such as ponds, marshes, lakes, creeks, and other riparian zones. It also thrives along roadways and railroads as well as agricultural fields. It can grow in a variety of climates, as evidenced by its widespread range.



### Identification

**Stem:** Hairless stem that typically grows 4-5 ft tall but can grow to more than 10 ft tall.

**Leaves:** Oval to lance or spearhead shaped leaves, 3-6 inches long, with an alternate leaf arrangement.

**Flowers:** Dioecious, meaning there are distinct male and female plants. Many small green flowers form an inflorescence in July-September. The terminal inflorescence can be more than 1 ft long, with many wiry lateral branches.

