

Common lambsquarters

Chenopodium album L.



Life cycle

Erect summer annual.

Leaves

Cotyledons are oblong, narrow and linear with no midvein and a dull green to gray cast. The first one or two leaf pairs are opposite; all remaining leaves are alternate. Mature leaves are highly variable, being triangle-, diamond- or lance-shaped and light green above with gray, mealy undersides. Lower leaves have a petiole and irregular way to shallowly toothed margins. Young or newly emerged leaves often have a gray, mealy coating on both surfaces.



Common lambsquarters seedling.



Common lambsquarters cotyledons do not have midveins.



Common lambsquarters leaf.

Stems

Erect, moderately branched central stem up to 6 feet in height.

Mature stems are vertically grooved with red, purple or light green stripes.



Common lambsquarters plant.

Flowers and fruit

Green, inconspicuous flowers are found in dense, granular clusters at the stem ends. Round to oval, somewhat flattened, black to brown, shiny seeds are enclosed by a star-shaped, papery covering.

Reproduction

Seeds.



Mature seedhead of common lambsquarters.