Life cycle
Bushy-branched summer annual.

Leaves
Alternate, oval to spatula-shaped, light green leaves have wavy margins and notched leaf tips.

Stems
Mostly erect and usually hairless, pale green to whitish stems with multiple branches create a bushy appearance. Stems, up to 4 feet tall, break off at the soil surface when mature and tumble with the wind.

Flowers and fruit
Small, greenish flowers are found in dense clusters in the leaf axils. Flowers have long bracts — two to four times the length of the sepals — and yield small, round, shiny black seeds.

Reproduction
Seeds.

Amaranthaceae (Amaranth family)