

Early identification of Palmer amaranth

Overview

Palmer amaranth is a resilient weed with increasing herbicide resistance and territorial expansion, and the potential to harm the yield and economic value of your crops. Early detection and appropriate action against Palmer amaranth can help maintain plant health and yield potential.

What you should know

- Palmer amaranth, or *Amaranthus palmeri*, is an aggressive, fast-spreading weed that is highly competitive with corn, soybeans and cotton. Identifying Palmer amaranth is important, because it's the largest and most destructive of its weed relatives (redroot pigweed and waterhemp).
- Palmer amaranth can cause up to 91% reduction in corn yields and up to 79% reduction in soybean yields in extreme cases. It emerges late May through early June and sets seeds by mid-July. One plant is capable of growing 2-3 inches per day and producing nearly 500,000 seeds at maturity. It thrives in hot, dry conditions.
- Palmer amaranth resistance to glyphosate and ALS inhibitors has been documented. This makes the weed particularly challenging to combat and underscores the need to identify it early, before reproductive maturity.

Action steps

1. **Identify the opponent:** Palmer amaranth is distinguished by its chevron leaf shape, stem hairs and long, prickly seed head.
2. **Analyze growth stage:** For proper management, treat Palmer amaranth before it reaches 4 inches in height. Keep in mind a single plant can grow as much as 2-3 inches a day.
3. **Choose the correct treatment:** A two-pass system of pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicide is recommended. If escapes are present, hand-weed before the Palmer amaranth reaches reproductive maturity.



Palmer amaranth has hairless, diamond-shaped leaves that may have a white chevron pattern.



30-Second Summary

- Palmer amaranth is an increasingly troublesome weed, causing significant yield loss.
- Palmer amaranth grows aggressively and can be resistant to some common herbicides.
- Identifying Palmer amaranth early, before it reaches maturity, can prevent economic losses.
- Treating fields with a combination of pre-emergent and post-emergent herbicides can help control Palmer amaranth.

For more information, contact:



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