

Lambsquarters

Overview

Lambsquarters is a common summer weed. It is competitive with crops, and can cause yield loss in corn and soybeans.

What you should know

- Lambsquarters (*Chenopodium album*) is among the most common and competitive summer weeds. It emerges early in agricultural and other disturbed areas.
- One lambsquarters plant per 1½-foot row of corn can cause a yield loss of 13%, and less than one plant per foot of soybeans can cause a 25% yield loss.
- Lambsquarters is usually considered edible, but its production of oxalates can increase to levels that can be toxic to livestock.
- Lambsquarters has dull, pale gray-green leaves and stalks that can be tinged with purple. Lambsquarters can grow up to 5 feet tall, depending on moisture and soil fertility. It grows clusters of green flowers at the tips of the main stem and branches. Leaves and flowers can be covered in a white powdery coating.
- Seeds on a single lambsquarters plant can have different dormancies. These seeds can be activated by high levels of soil nitrate, exposure to light and fluctuating temperatures.

Action steps

1. **Catch it early:** Treat lambsquarters before it exceeds the maximum height for post-emergent weed control. Lambsquarters is difficult to control under dry conditions, so treat before summer drought.
2. **Till at night:** Dark tillage can reduce lambsquarters emergence by 30-70%.
3. **Rotate in small grains:** Adding small grains to your crop rotations can help suppress lambsquarters.

<http://ipm.ucanr.edu/PMG/WEEDS/lambsquarters.html>

<https://www.canr.msu.edu/weeds/extension/common-lambsquarters>



Lambsquarters has gray-green leaves that can be coated in a white, powdery substance.



30-Second Summary

- Lambsquarters is a common, competitive early-season weed.
- Lambsquarters can lead to significant yield losses in corn and soybeans and it can be toxic to livestock.
- Early identification and treatment is most effective.

NOTES:

For more information, contact:



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