

# Field Facts: Lambsquarters

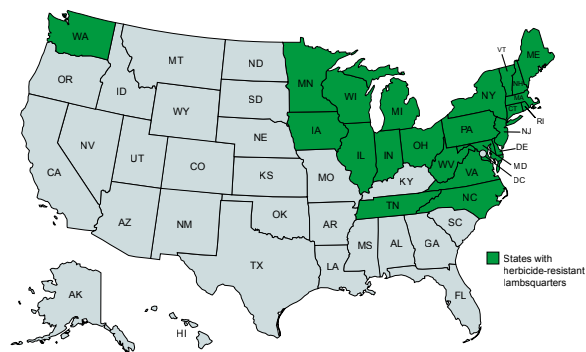
Common lambsquarters is an early emerging summer annual weed that is prevalent in the Midwest. The emergence timing and rapid growth make lambsquarters extremely competitive with soybeans. In fact, one plant per foot of row can reduce soybean yield by 25%.<sup>1</sup>

- **Common names:** Common lambsquarters, lambsquarters, white goosefoot
- **Scientific name:** *Chenopodium album* L.
- **Cotyledons:** Two, linear cotyledons on seedlings
- **Leaf shape:** Triangle-shaped with toothed margins and white, grainy surface on mature plants
- **Stems:** Vary in color from green to reddish, smooth and grooved in texture
- **Reproduction:** Monoecious (having male and female attributes on the same plant)
- **Flowers:** Small, gray-green flowers clustered at stem tips



## Fast facts

- Common lambsquarters is one of the earliest-emerging summer annual weeds. About 25% of the plants emerge prior to spring burndown applications or tillage. Peak emergence occurs in mid- to late spring with seeding typically in late summer into fall.<sup>1</sup>
- Lambsquarters grows quickly, with mature plants reaching up to 5 feet tall in the right conditions. The rapid growth leads to taller weeds earlier in the season, which can make effective herbicide control more difficult.
- The average lambsquarters plant produces about 72,500 seeds, with some producing up to 176,000 seeds.<sup>1</sup>
- Seed dormancy in common lambsquarters contributes to its success as a weed. Under certain conditions, it can remain viable in the soil for several decades.<sup>2</sup>
- Since the early 1970s, common lambsquarters has evolved resistance to two different herbicide sites of action: ALS inhibitors (Group 2) and photosystem II inhibitors (Group 5). According to WeedScience.org, herbicide-resistant lambsquarters has been found in more than 20 states.



## Control tips

- A weed control program approach using burndown, preemergence and postemergence herbicides with multiple modes of action and residual activity can help keep lambsquarters under control.
- Encourage customers to start each spring with tillage and/or a burndown herbicide application.
- Following the burndown, customers should use a program approach that includes preemergence and postemergence applications with multiple modes of action and residual activity.
  - In corn, a good preemergence choice is SureStart® II herbicide followed by a timely postemergence application of Resicore® herbicide or Kyro™ herbicide.
  - In soybeans, Sonic® herbicide is an excellent preemergence option and can be followed with EverpreX® herbicide for lambsquarters control on any soybean variety.
  - For Enlist E3® soybeans, applying Sonic herbicide preemergence followed by a postemergence mix of Enlist One® herbicide and Liberty® herbicide can be a powerful program against lambsquarters.
- For Enlist® corn, applying a multiple MOA, acetochlor-containing herbicide like SureStart II, Keystone® NXT, FulTime® NXT or Resicore preemergence followed by Enlist One and Kyro herbicide postemergence is a two-prong approach for excellent control of common lambsquarters.
  - Note: The effectiveness of herbicides is often based on weed size. Ensure customers are spraying when weeds are less than 6 inches tall; and using full herbicide rates.
- Farmers also can use cultural practices to help control lambsquarters:<sup>1</sup>
  - Planting in narrow rows and using higher seeding rates improve crop competitiveness with the weed.
  - Planting later in the season and spring tillage are two practices that disrupt soil and help control young lambsquarters.
  - Rotary hoeing can control lambsquarters when it's under ¼ inch tall.
  - Including small grains in crop rotation can keep the weed at bay.

<sup>1</sup> United Soybean Board. "Common Lambsquarters." Accessed July 25, 2024. <https://iwilltakeaction.com/weeds/identification/common-lambsquarters>.

<sup>2</sup> Curran, Bill, Christy Sprague, Jeff Stachler, and Mark Loux. "Biology and Management of Common Lambsquarters." Purdue Extension. Accessed July 25, 2024. [Lambsquarters.pdf](https://ag.purdue.edu/btmy/purdueweeds/science/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/GWC11_Lambsquarters.pdf), 2007. [https://ag.purdue.edu/btmy/purdueweeds/science/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/GWC11\\_Lambsquarters.pdf](https://ag.purdue.edu/btmy/purdueweeds/science/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/GWC11_Lambsquarters.pdf).

™ ® Trademarks of Corteva Agriscience and its affiliated companies. The transgenic soybean event in Enlist E3® soybeans is jointly developed and owned by Corteva Agriscience and M.S. Technologies L.L.C. Following burndown, Enlist Duo® and Enlist One® herbicides with Colex-D® technology are the only herbicides containing 2,4-D that are authorized for preemergence and postemergence use with Enlist® crops. Consult Enlist® herbicide labels for weed species controlled. Enlist Duo and Enlist One herbicides are not registered for use or sale in all states and counties; are not registered in AK, CA, CT, HI, ID, MA, ME, MT, NH, NV, OR, RI, UT, VT, WA and WY; and have additional subcounty restrictions in AL, GA, TN and TX, while existing county restrictions still remain in FL. All users must check "Bulletins Live! Two" no earlier than six months before using Enlist One or Enlist Duo. To obtain "Bulletins," consult [epa.gov/espp/](http://epa.gov/espp/), call 1-844-447-3813, or email [ESPP@epa.gov](mailto:ESPP@epa.gov). You must use the "Bulletin" valid for the month and state and county in which Enlist One or Enlist Duo are being applied. Contact your state pesticide regulatory agency if you have questions about the registration status of Enlist® herbicides in your area. ALWAYS READ AND FOLLOW PESTICIDE LABEL DIRECTIONS. IT IS A VIOLATION OF FEDERAL AND STATE LAW TO USE ANY PESTICIDE PRODUCT OTHER THAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS LABELING. ONLY USE FORMULATIONS THAT ARE SPECIFICALLY LABELED FOR SUCH USE IN THE STATE OF APPLICATION. USE OF PESTICIDE PRODUCTS, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, 2,4-D-CONTAINING PRODUCTS NOT AUTHORIZED FOR USE WITH ENLIST CROPS, MAY RESULT IN OFF-TARGET DAMAGE TO SENSITIVE CROPS/AREAS AND/OR SUSCEPTIBLE PLANTS, IN ADDITION TO CIVIL AND/OR CRIMINAL PENALTIES. Additional product-specific stewardship requirements for Enlist crops, including the Enlist Product Use Guide, can be found at [www.traitstewardship.com](http://www.traitstewardship.com). EverpreX®, FulTime NXT, Keystone NXT, Kyro™, Resicore®, Sonic® and SureStart® II are not registered for sale or use in all states. FulTime NXT, Keystone NXT, Kyro, Resicore and SureStart II are not available for sale, distribution or use in Nassau and Suffolk counties in the state of New York. Contact your state pesticide regulatory agency to determine if a product is registered for sale or use in your state. Liberty® is a registered trademark of BASF. Always read and follow label directions.

© 2024 Corteva.