

# Prostrate pigweed

*Amaranthus blitoides*

Pigweed Family

## Key identifying traits

- ❑ Plants have prostrate stems growing in all directions from a main tap root
- ❑ Leaves are about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide and oval and alternate
- ❑ The stems are red to purple and nearly smooth
- ❑ Main stems can grow 12-18" long
- ❑ Flowers are in small thick clusters
- ❑ Seeds are shiny black and lens shaped

## Biology and ecology

- An annual plant spreading by seed
- It is a common garden weed
- Pigweeds can be high in nitrates causing them to be toxic to livestock
- Most sources say this is an introduced species that is now naturalized in the U.S.
- It can form dense mats

## Control

*Prevention* - Learn to identify plants; start monitoring early in the season

*Biological* - No known biological control in our area

*Cultural* - Plant competitive grass or other cover crop

*Mechanical* - Mowing is not an option since this plant grows flat on the ground; hand pulling can be effective but roots tend to break off in hard ground

*Chemical* - There are many herbicides listed for control of pigweeds-products with dicamba such as "Weedmaster" is recommended. Also refer to the [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) for specific chemical recommendations

All Photos Rich Old, XID Services, Inc.

*Where found* - Scattered throughout Stevens County and can be a problem in gardens, flower beds and cultivated crops.

