

[Back to weed management](#)

Pokeweed

Phytolacca americana L.

Life cycle: Erect, branched taprooted perennial.

Leaves: Alternate, hairless, broadly oval, lance- to egg-shaped with smooth to slightly wavy leaf margins.

Stems: Smooth, succulent, herbaceous, predominantly reddish and branched multiple times without a central stem, reaching up to 9 feet in height.

Flowers and fruit: Greenish white to pink flowers yield erect to nodding, hanging clusters of conspicuous, deep purple to black berries when mature. Berries are poisonous, and berry juice will easily stain.

Reproduction: Seeds. Often dispersed by birds.



Pokeweed plant.

All photos this page: Steven A. Gower



Young pokeweed plant.



Mature pokeweed berries.



Pokeweed seedling.