

(revision date:4/7/2021)

Weeds: Pokeweed()

family: *Phytolaccaceae*

cycle *Perennial*

plant type: *Broadleaf*

Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.

Biology

Pokeweed is a shrub-like herbaceous perennial. It can grow quickly to a height of up to 10' in one year. The central stem bears egg-shaped leaves which can range from 6"-12" in length. Leaves are alternate and have pointed ends and crinkled edges. Pokeweed stems are reddish. It has a carrot-like taproot. The entire plant dies back to the ground in the fall. Pokeweed blooms during the summer. The flowers are in greenish-white long clusters (racemes). By late summer, berries have begun to form, at first green and later purplish-black. **SPECIAL INFORMATION:** The berries and roots are highly poisonous to humans.

Habitat

Pokeweed does well in either full sun or partial shade. It can grow on a wide range of soil types.

Management Options

Non-Chemical Management

- ~ Hand remove first-year plants early in the growing season. The large taproot makes it difficult to remove established plants.
- ~ Cut plants numerous times during the growing season each year until controlled.

Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!

Chemical Management

IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides

Apply a systemic herbicide to the foliage in late summer.

Landscape Areas

- glyphosate

Turf Areas

Bare Ground Areas

- glyphosate

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Images



~ Caption: Pokeweed plant
~ Photo by: K. Volkov



~ Caption: Pokeweed berries
~ Photo by: K. Volkov



~ Caption: Pokeweed stem
~ Photo by: K. Volkov