

## CHENOPODIACEAE – GOOSEFOOT FAMILY

**Plant:** herbs, shrubs or trees – often called weeds

**Stem:** often ridged or angled

**Root:** sometimes with taproot

**Leaves:** mostly alternate (rarely opposite), simple or sometimes reduced, usually toothed or lobed, sometimes with a mealy-like (hairs) or flaky surface; no stipules

**Flowers:** perfect or imperfect (monoecious or dioecious); small, usually in clusters on spikes or axils; often green; with bracts, sepals usually 1-5 or none and often present with fruit; no petals; usually 5 stamens; carpels 2 or 3; 1-3 styles, usually 2

**Fruit:** tiny nut or dry seed (often need for ID)

**Other:** world wide but likes alkaline soils; Swiss chard, spinach, beets;  
Dicotyledons Group

**Genera:** 100+ genera; locally – *Atriplex*, *Chenopodium* (goosefoot), *Corispermum* (Bugseed), *Cycloloma* (winged pigweed), *Salicornia* (glasswort), *Salsola* and others

## **CHENOPODIACEAE – GOOSEFOOT FAMILY**

**Lamb's-Quarters [Pigweed]; *Chenopodium album* L.**  
**Mapleleaf Goosefoot; *Chenopodium simplex* (Torr.) Raf.**

# Lamb's-Quarters [Pigweed]

*Chenopodium album* L.

Chenopodiaceae (Goosefoot Family)

Maumee River Metroparks,

Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: flowers greenish in crowded spikes, 5 sepals (no petals), mealy hairy; note lower leaf shape below, upper leaf more lanceolate; much branched plant, stem sometimes pigmented (reddish); common plant with several varieties; summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2005]



Lower Leaf



# Mapleleaf Goosefoot

*Chenopodium simplex* (Torr.) Raf.

Chenopodiaceae (Goosefoot Family)

Springfield area, Greene County, Missouri

Notes: flowers greenish in mostly leafless crowded terminal spikes, 5 sepals (no petals), +/- mealy; leaves often deltoid (to somewhat ovate), sharp tip, 1-5+ large teeth; plant not aromatic; summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2007]

