

# Kochia



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[*Bassia scoparia* (L.) A.J. Scott]

Kochia is a widespread weed found in cropland, roadsides, waste areas and overgrazed pasture.

Kochia is a taprooted annual forb that can grow from 1 to 6 feet tall. Seedlings are very pubescent. Stems are erect and spreading, much branched and yellowish-green to green, which turn red with maturity. The leaves are alternate, lance-shaped and 0.5 to 2 inches long, with fringed hairs on the margins. Kochia flowers are inconspicuous, greenish, and form short, dense, terminal, bracted spikes. Flowering is from July to September. The plant spreads only by seed with more than 14,000 produced per plant.

Kochia has been grown as a drought-resistant forage, but is a serious cropland weed. This plant has become resistant to several herbicides used in crops and control is becoming more difficult each year. Kochia can contain high nitrate levels and is toxic if overgrazed. Livestock become bloated and also are photosensitized if too much is consumed.

