Common lambsquarters
*Chenopodium album* L.

**Life cycle**
Erect summer annual.

**Leaves**
Cotyledons are oblong, narrow and linear with no midvein and a dull green to gray cast. The first one or two leaf pairs are opposite; all remaining leaves are alternate. Mature leaves are highly variable, being triangle-, diamond- or lance-shaped and light green above with gray, mealy undersides. Lower leaves have a petiole and irregular wavy to shallowly toothed margins. Young or newly emerged leaves often have a gray, mealy coating on both surfaces.
Common lambsquarters continued

Stems
Erect, moderately branched central stem up to 6 feet in height. Mature stems are vertically grooved with red, purple or light green stripes.

Flowers and fruit
Green, inconspicuous flowers are found in dense, granular clusters at the stem ends. Round to oval, somewhat flattened, black to brown, shiny seeds are enclosed by a star-shaped, papery covering.

Reproduction
Seeds.

Chenopodiaceae (Goosefoot family)
Similar weeds
Atriplex (*Atriplex patula* L.)
Differs by having larger cotyledons, a more branching, spreading habit due to the opposite arrangement of the first several pairs of leaves and branches, and leaf bases with a lobe on each side.
Common lambsquarters continued

Atriplex seedling.

Atriplex leaf base with a lobe on each side.

Atriplex plant.

Chenopodiaceae (Goosefoot family)