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.

---

**Phytolaccaceae (Pokeweed family)**

Back to identifying field weeds.