

Amaranthus powellii S. Watson subsp. *powellii*, POWELL'S AMARANTH. Annual, taprooted, several-stemmed at base, much-branched, decumbent, spreading and typically terminating in a dense inflorescence, 30–80+ cm tall; monoecious; shoots typically glabrous + pubescent sometimes in inflorescence. **Stems:** irregularly ridged, to 11 mm diameter, with 2 ridges descending from each leaf, straw-colored or pink, main axis \pm straight. **Leaves:** helically alternate, simple, petiolate, without stipules; petiole deeply channeled, 10–50 mm long; blade rhombic or ovate to elliptic or broadly lanceolate (upper cauline leaves), 12–65 \times 5–35 mm, broadly tapered at base, entire or subentire and somewhat wavy on margins, typically minutely notched with short point or obtuse at tip, pinnately veined with principal veins sunken on upper surface and raised on lower surface, the veins faintly dotted from included crystals. **Inflorescence:** panicle of short, highly condensed cymes of unisexual flowers (cymules), terminal and axillary, erect, cylindric, cymules of mostly sessile, pistillate flowers, bracteate; terminal panicle 25–120+ \times 10–15 mm, with 0–3 leafy bracts at or near base, often with 1 or more lateral branches near the base of panicle, axillary panicles shorter and \pm sessile; peduncle stemlike; cymule short-stalked or sessile, staminate flowers formed at base of each lateral branchlet; bract subtending cymule ovate, 3.5–6 mm long, green with broad membranous margins and a thick, raised, green midstripe aging reddish, tail-like (caudate) to awned at tip; cymule axis 1–2 mm long, clustered at each node, spreading; bractlet subtending flower membranous, 2–4 mm long, acuminate and awned at tip, with green midstripe. **Staminate flower:** radial, 1.5 mm across; **tepals** (perianth parts) 4–5, helically alternate, subequal, ovate, 2–3 mm long, membranous aging scarious, acuminate or with soft point at tip; **stamens** 4, free; filaments, \pm 2 mm long, translucent; anthers dorsifixed, dithecal, \pm 1.3 mm long, light yellow, longitudinally dehiscent; pollen light yellow; **pistil** absent. **Pistillate flower:** radial, > staminate flower; **tepals** (perianth parts) 5, helically alternate, narrowly subequal, ovate to ovate-elliptic, 1.7–3(–3.6) mm long, membranous with or without green midstripe, rounded on back, overlapped and somewhat pouchlike at base, acuminate or with soft point at tip, persistent in fruit; **stamens** absent; **pistil** 1; ovary superior, broadly ellipsoid and compressed, 1.5–2 mm long, 1-chambered with 1 ovule; styles 2–3, erect, 0.8–1.5 mm long, stigmatic on inner side. **Fruit:** utricle, with persistent styles, dehiscent easily around circumference (circumscissile), basal portion 0.6–0.7 mm long, wall thin, wrinkled. **Seed:** ovoid-lenticular, 1.1–1.5 mm long, 0.6–0.7 mm thick, glossy black (reddish when immature), smooth, with tiny projection by micropyle. Late June–early November.

Native. Annual observed as a weed occasionally found near cultivated fields and ditches in the western end of range. *Amaranthus powellii* is a spineless plant that has much larger leaves than the other common amaranths; it has a conspicuous terminal inflorescence with several lateral panicles and fruits with circumscissile dehiscence, but to distinguish this *Amaranthus* from closely related, leafy species, the observer requires good magnification to measure small structures.

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