

Amaranthus albus

COMMON NAMES

tumbleweed amaranth

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMILAR TAXA

Stem, pale green, with numerous ascending branches making more or less globular plant, 30 to 90 cm tall. Breaks off at ground level at maturity and is rolled over open fields by wind, distributing the seeds. Leaves spatulate, short-petioled 1.3 to 2.5 cm long. Flowers small, greenish, in axillary clusters (Wax, Fawcett and Isely 1981).

GENUS

Amaranthus

FAMILY

Amaranthaceae

AUTHORITY

Amaranthus albus L.

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1875

ORIGIN

N. America

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seed small round, shiny, black, each contained in a bladderlike hull (Wax, Fawcett and Isely 1981). Wind dispersed.

ETYMOLOGY

amaranthus: From the Greek a- 'without' or 'lacking' and maraino 'to fade', meaning unfading and referring to the durability of the flowers of some species

albus: From the Latin albus 'white'

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/amaranthus-albus/>

PDF DATE

27 May 2026

