

# CARELESS WEED

*Amaranthus palmeri*

**FAMILY:** Amaranthaceae

**GENUS:** Amaranthus

**SPECIES:** palmeri

**COMMON NAMES:** Careless Weed  
Palmer's Amaranth

**POLLEN GRAINS:** Spheroidal, 22.8-25.3 microns in diameter, with granular texture similar to Chenopodiaceae. Numerous pores varying in size and distance apart. Pore apertures circular with slightly wavy margins.

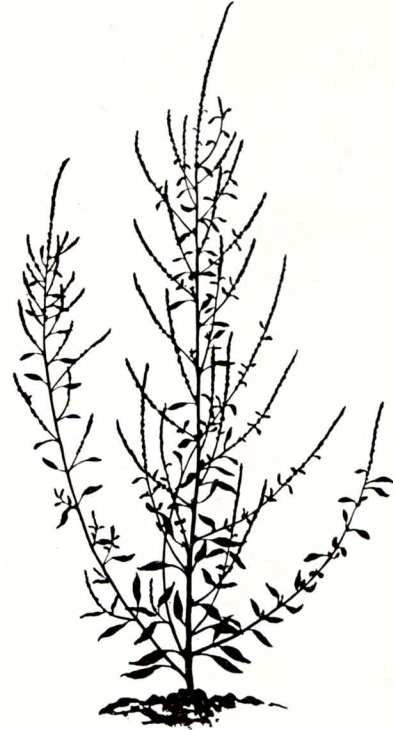
**POLLINATING PERIOD:** Summer months

**DISTRIBUTION:** Interior valleys of central and southern California eastward to Colorado, Kansas, Missouri and eastern Texas.

**ALLERGIC IMPORTANCE:** Important in areas of abundance.

*Careless Weed is an erect, stout-stemmed annual, 1½ to 6 feet in height. Leaves are pale green, oval to lance shaped with petioles as long or longer than the blade. Flowers are borne in long, slender spikes. Male and female flowers occur on separate plants. Spine-tipped bracts make the spikes sharp to the touch, especially so the female inflorescence.*

*Careless Weed produces pollen in profuse amounts, much exceeding the quantity shed by a more wide-spread Amaranthus, the common Redroot Pigweed.*





Male Plant

*Amaranthus palmeri*  
(Careless Weed)

Female Plant