

American Pokeweed

Phytolacca americana

Identification

- Green, lance-shaped leaves with smooth edges
- Hollow pink stem
- Greenish-white flowers bloom in early summer
- Dark purple berries grow in clusters in late summer

Potential impacts

- Can be **highly toxic** and even fatal by ingestion
- Difficult to remove once established

Cultural significance

- Pokeweed is a cultural food for some people, especially from the plant's native range in the southeastern US. It should only be consumed by people who know how to prepare it.

Removal

- Wear gloves to protect skin from toxic juices
- Dig out roots and root fragments
- Cut and bag stems with berries and flowers
- Put all plant matter in a sealed bag in trash bins instead of compost to prevent spread



East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District



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