



The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station

123 HUNTINGTON STREET, P.O. BOX 1106, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT 06504

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MEDIA CONTACTS:

Dr. Jatinder S. Aulakh
Assistant Weed Scientist
Valley Laboratory
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
153 Cook Hill Road
Windsor, CT 06095
860-683-4984
Email: Jatinder.Aulakh@ct.gov

Dr. James LaMondia
Chief Scientist / Plant Pathologist
Valley Laboratory
The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station
153 Cook Hill Road
Windsor, CT 06095
860-683-4982
Email: James.LaMondia@ct.gov

CAES Announces the discovery of a highly invasive and damaging weed in Connecticut.

New Haven, CT –Scientists from the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station (CAES) have discovered a highly invasive and noxious species of pigweed in Connecticut. The weed, identified as Palmer amaranth (*Amaranthus palmeri*) is widespread and damaging in the southern US and can be toxic to livestock. It was found this fall in two pumpkin fields in East Windsor, CT. The weed is highly aggressive and can outcompete many crops, causing dramatic losses in yields. It has also been shown to be resistant to many of the commonly used herbicides used to control weeds in crops. Experiments are now under way to screen this population for herbicide resistance.

Growers are encouraged to report any new cases of its presence in Connecticut to The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station. If you suspect Palmer amaranth on your property, please contact: Dr. Jatinder S. Aulakh, Assistant Weed Scientist. Email: Jatinder.Aulakh@ct.gov or phone 860-683-4984.



A young Palmer amaranth plant (left). Palmer amaranth leaves often have white or purple, chevron-shaped water marks on the upper surface. Palmer amaranth in a pumpkin field in East Windsor Connecticut (right). Photo source MN Dept. Agric. (left) and J.S. Aulakh (right).

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Phone: (203) 974-8500 Fax: (203) 974-8502
Toll Free: 1-(877) 855-2237, CAES@CT.GOV
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