

Natural History Society of South Australia Inc.

## **Fat Hen**

## Chenopodium album



Infestation (keyserver.lucidcentral.org, QLD Biosecurity, Sheldon Navie)



Broader lower leaves with bluntly-toothed margins (Sheldon Navie)

Native range is obscure due to extensive cultivation but includes most of Europe. It is now very widespread throughout the temperate and tropical regions of the world.

## Description

Erect annual herb to 3 (but rarely above 1.2) m high, without an unpleasant odour, leaves silvery green on the lower surface from a mealy bloom, seed glossy, smooth or weakly furrowed and horizontal in fruit but easily separated from it.

Stems ribbed, often tinged with purple or red.

Leaves alternate, ovate to rhombic becoming more linear up stem, 2-8 cm long, 0.5-5 cm wide, margins entire to variously toothed, at least lower leaves with leaf stalks.

Seed round, flattened with a marginal notch, brownish green to black, 1–1.3 mm wide. Seed falling enclosed within fruit.

(www.weeds.org.au)



Young plant (Sheldon Navie)



Tiny greyish-greenish flowers with yellow stamens (Sheldon Navie)





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