

Common purslane, little hogweed, wild portulaca (*Portulaca oleracea*)

By Stephen H. Futch, David W. Hall and Brent Sellers

Life cycle: herbaceous, summer annual

Leaves: alternate or nearly opposite; fleshy, stalkless; thick, succulent; somewhat spoon- or wedge-shaped; rounded at the tip, narrowing at the base

Stem: up to 18 inches long, lying flat, smooth; often reddish to purplish red, round

Flower: five petals, yellow, solitary or in clusters from leaf axils

Fruit: round capsule, one-sixteenth inch in diameter

Seeds: dark red to black

Propagated by: seed, and stem segments can root, creating new plants

Growth characteristics: prostrate, succulent, mat-forming

Comment: found throughout the United States, southern Canada and tropical regions of the world

Control: Products that contain bromacil, indaziflam, norflurazone, pendimethalin and simazine provide pre-emergence control of purslane



emerging from seed. Glyphosate, paraquat dichloride or products containing 2,4-D provide good to excellent activity on small plants.

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