

Broadleaf plantain

Plantago major L.

Life cycle

Rosette-forming simple perennial.

Leaves

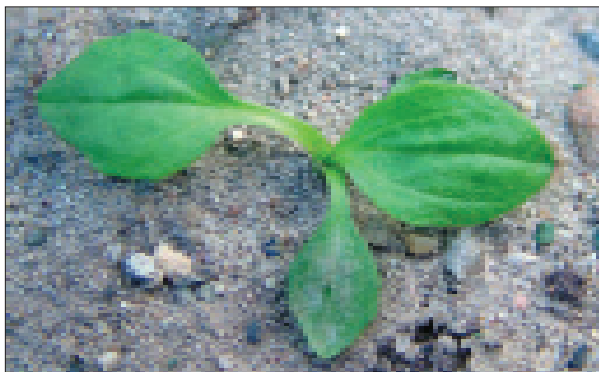
All leaves originate from a basal rosette. Cotyledons are long and spatula-shaped. Leaves are generally smooth and broadly to narrowly oval, with parallel veins and smooth to slightly wavy leaf margins. Leaf base tapers to a distinct petiole. Petioles are usually green but occasionally pale pink.



Broadleaf plantain flowering spikes.

Stems

No visible aboveground stem. Short taproot present.



Broadleaf plantain seedling.

Broadleaf plantain *continued*

Flowers and fruit

Leafless stalks bear long, dense, cylinder-shaped flowering spikes and fruit resembling a rat tail. Single flowers are inconspicuous. Fruiting capsules yield many narrowly oval, usually glossy brown seeds.

Reproduction

Seeds.



Broadleaf plantain rosette.

Similar weeds

Blackseed plantain (*P. rugelii* Dcne.)

Differs by often having dark red to purple petioles, usually wavy leaf margins and dull dark brown to black seeds.