

Polygonum amphibium

(*P. amphibium stipulaceum*)

Water Smartweed

Water Knot Weed

Preferred Water Depth and Inundation Tolerance

Species has a wide tolerance for inundation (Max: 20"/Min: moist soil).

Wildlife Value

Seeds are eaten by waterfowl. Serves as a major food source for purplish copper butterfly. Also provides cover for waterfowl and fish.

Application/Zone

Used in lower shoreline zones. Wave tolerant.

Availability, Establishment, and Maintenance

- Achenes, cuttings, rootstocks, and rhizomes may be used. Plants and rootstocks have limited availability from commercial vendors. Collect achenes when they are mature (July-Sept.).
- One source recommends storing achenes in fresh, 32-34° F water for 3 to 6 months to stratify.
- Other sources indicate that seed germinates best when stored dry at 40° F followed by light at 70° F.
- Broadcast in the spring on wet site.
- To use cuttings, take 2-6 inch cuttings from top shoots and plant on site in wet area by burying lower part of cutting. Spring drawdown increases plant production.
- Achene production is high in areas shallowly flooded during the growing season.

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Mature Height

Up to 3 feet

Plant Type

Perennial emergent herb

Indicator Status

Obligate

pH

5.4-8.8

Nutrient Load Tolerance

Moderate

Salt Tolerance

Low

Siltation Tolerance

Moderate to high

Flowering Color and Time

Red to pink

June to August

Light Preference

Partial to full sun

Seeding Rate

.5 - 1.5 lbs/acre

