Water smartweed
Polygonum amphibium

Minnesota C-Value: 4
Wetland Indicator Status: OBL
Native

Leaves: Leaves alternate with terrestrial or floating forms. Submerged or floating leaves are smooth, blunt, and short pointed. Terrestrial leaves are longer, hairy, and leatherlike.

Stems: Variable in height and form, up to 1 meter in height.

Flowers and fruit: 1, sometimes 2 terminal spikes, 1-4 in. long, pink to red in color. 5 stamens and 5-lobed sepals.

Plant communities: Ponds, seasonally flooded basins, marshes, wet soils.

Comments: Perennial with rhizomes. A distinctive node where the leaf meets the stem is a key characteristic of Smartweed. Other *Polygonum* spp. have multiple flower spikes from the leaf axils and at the end of the stem.