



NRCS Species for Plant Collections

Polygonum pensylvanicum

Scientific Name: *Polygonum pensylvanicum*

Common Name: Pink Smartweed



1 Courtesy of The Samuel Roberts Noble Foundation, Ardmore, Oklahoma

Morphological Characteristics:

- native, annual
- warm season
- native habitat includes ponds, quiet streams, canals, ditches and swamps
- reproduces each year from seed
- erect growing plant that reaches heights of 48 inches
- leaves are green in color and have a pointed or oblong shape
- leaves grow about 6 inches long and 1 inch wide
- flowers are pink and white in color, and will bloom from late spring to late fall
- flowers grow in spike-like clusters 2 inches long and ½ inch wide
- seeds are round with a shiny black color

Conservation Use:

Why collect this plant? Texas Plant Materials Centers have identified this plant as having potential benefits to the following conservation practice standards: 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management; 342 Critical Area Plantings; 562 Recreation Area Improvement. The planting of pink smartweed can provide food and cover for many birds and small mammals. The forage is browsed by deer. In western portion of Texas there is a need for locally adapted native (ecotypic) plant materials for use in restoration projects. Your assistance in collecting this plant helps support this effort and the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Texas.

Centers Requesting Seed:

USDA-NRCS/James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center – Knox City, Texas
USDA-NRCS/East Texas Plant Materials Center- Nacogdoches, Texas

How to Collect Seed:

1. Identify native plant stands in your area. You can go to the following websites for helpful photos <http://plants.usda.gov> or <http://www.noble.org/imagegallery/index.html> or www.wildflower.org
2. Determine if seed is mature. Mature seed is typically dry and will easily separate from the seed head.
3. Hand strip mature seed by grasping the bottom of the seed head then gently pulling away from the base of the plant. Deposit seed in a brown paper bag and not in a plastic bag, because moisture will collect and mold seeds. Collect seed from a minimum of 30 to 50 plants.
4. Label each collection as it is made so collections do not get mixed up. Information required includes: Collector's name, number of plants collected, location (parish, city, highway, and GPS coordinates), site description (soil type, slope, and plants growing in association).
5. Complete NRCS-ECS-580; Plant Collection Information Form and mail with collected seeds to the NRCS Plant Materials Center below.

USDA-NRCS James E. "Bud" Smith Plant Materials Center
3950 FM 1292 Suite 100
Knox City, TX 79529-2514

USDA-NRCS East Texas Plant Materials Center
6598 FM 2782
Nacogdoches, TX 75964

Helpful Tips:

Look for superior plants that display differences in color, height, or forage abundance and record observations. Differences in growing site or location should be made into separate collections if they are separated by more than 1 mile between sites.

Other Photos:



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2 Elaine Haug @ USDA-NRCS
PLANTS Database



3 USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database /
USDA NRCS. Wetland flora: Field
office illustrated guide to plant
species. USDA Natural Resources
Conservation Service

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