



NRCS Species for Plant Collections 2011

Polygonum Sp.

Scientific Name:

Polygonum amphibium
Polygonum arenastrum jord. Ex Broeau
Polygonum hydropiperoides Michx.
Polygonum l.
Polygonum pensylvanicum L.

Common Name:

Smartweed
Knotweed



Morphological Characteristics:

Habit- smartweed is a native, perennial/annual (dependent upon species) forb which grows to a height of 35 inches tall with swollen joint at the internodes

Leaves- The long, flat leaves are alternately arranged and are up to four inches long, pointed at the tip, tapering to the base and $\frac{3}{4}$ " wide. The fine foliage is dark green.

Seedhead – The flowers are pink to whitish in color and $\frac{1}{4}$ " long. They are arranged on racemes about two inches long, seed is shiny, ovate, and slightly flattened.

Habitat and Range: smartweeds are most commonly found on moist soils with medium and fine textured soils and tolerates mildly acidic to alkaline soils.

Conservation Use:

Why collect this plant? Smartweeds have been identified as important food sources for birds, including 20 species of water fowl. Texas Plant Materials Centers have identified this plant as having potential benefits to the following conservation practice standard: 645 Upland Wildlife Habitat Management, 327 Conservation Cover, and 342 Critical Area Planting. Your assistance in collecting this plant helps support the NRCS conservation practice standards which are employed daily to conserve the natural resources of Texas!



USDA NRCS. *Wetland flora: Field office illustrated guide to plant species.*

Center Requesting Seed: East Texas Plant Materials Center

How to Collect Seed:

1. Identify native plant stands in your area. You can go to the following websites for helpful photos <http://www.plants.usda.gov> , <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. Polygonum seed is more or less triangular, black or brown, shiny, and about 1/8" long.
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 sack. 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, 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 requesting the species.

East Texas Plant Materials Center
6598 FM 2782
Nacogdoches, TX 75964
Physical Location:
SFA Experimental Forest

Helpful Tips:

Look for superior plants that display differences in color, height, or flower 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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