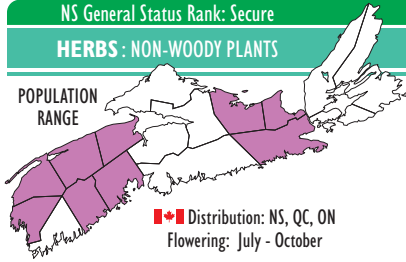



POPULATION RANGE




 Distribution: NS, QC, ON
 Flowering: July - October

SIZE: Up to 1 m tall.

LEAVES: Lance-shaped, green, 2-4 cm wide and alternately arranged on the stem.

STEM: Robust, semi-erect, up to 1 cm wide, and smooth or with small hairs. A covering (ocreae) wraps around the branching points and is swollen with a band of bristles around it.

FLOWERS: Showy, white and clustered along a central stalk. The petals and sepals (collectively called the perianth) are white with glands dotting the surface.

FRUITS: Dry, one-seeded fruits (achenes) that are shiny, black, three-sided, and 2.7-3.5 mm long.

NOTES: Can grow in large patches.



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Flowers © ALAIN BELLIEU



Lance-shaped leaves © MEGAN CROWLEY



White flowers



Robust stem and ocrea around the branching points

Habitat:

Wet mud or shallow water along ponds, lakeshores, and streams.

Interesting point: This species is in the same genus as the invasive alien species, Japanese Knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), but is native to NS.

Similar species: Water Smartweed (*Polygonum punctatum*) has narrower leaves (0.5-2.5 cm). Mild Water-Pepper (*Polygonum hydropiperoides*, page 21) is typically shorter and less robust with pinkish-white flowers and no glands dotting the sepals and petals.