

Stonegate Gardens

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Water Smartweed



Water Smartweed

Polygonum amphibium

Plant Height: 12 inches

Flower Height: 18 inches

Spread: 12 inches

Sunlight:

Hardiness Zone: 4b

Other Names: syn. *Persicaria amphibia*, Water Knotweed

Description:

Narrow spikes of pink flowers rise above clumps of green arrowhead shaped foliage in mid to late summer; prefers constantly moist soil and will grow in water



Water Smartweed foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Water Smartweed has masses of beautiful spikes of pink flowers rising above the foliage from mid to late summer, which are most effective when planted in groupings. The flowers are excellent for cutting. Its attractive pointy leaves remain green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Water Smartweed is an herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Water Smartweed is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- General Garden Use
- Water Gardens
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens
- Container Planting
- Bog Gardens

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Planting & Growing

Water Smartweed will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity extending to 18 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 12 inches. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant does best in full sun to partial shade. It prefers to grow in moist to wet soil, and will even tolerate some standing water. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is highly tolerant of urban pollution and will even thrive in inner city environments. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Water Smartweed is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.