



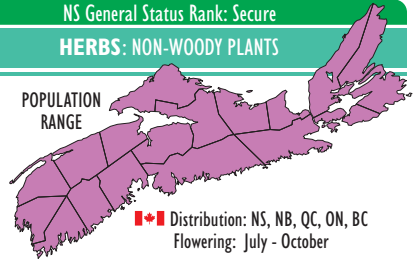
## Mild Water-Pepper

*Polygonum hydropiperoides*

NS General Status Rank: Secure

HERBS: NON-WOODY PLANTS

POPULATION  
RANGE



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Leaf

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SIZE: 50-100 cm tall.

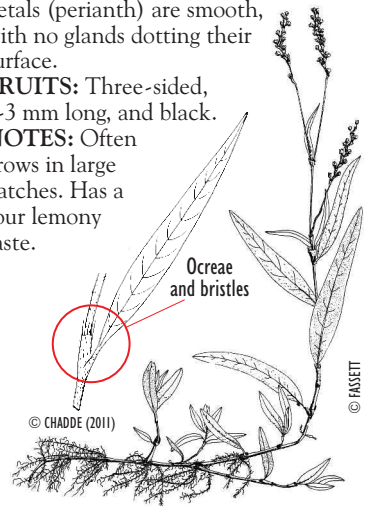
**LEAVES:** Linear to lance-shaped, green, 7-10 cm long, 1-2 cm wide and alternately arranged on the stem. They are on a short leaf stalk (petiole) or directly attached to the main stem.

**STEM:** Semi-erect, branching, and smooth or with small hairs. A covering (ocrea) wraps around the branching points and is swollen with a band of short bristles around it.

**FLOWERS:** Numerous pink to white (rarely green) flowers are clustered along a central stalk. The sepals and petals (perianth) are smooth, with no glands dotting their surface.

**FRUITS:** Three-sided, 2-3 mm long, and black.

**NOTES:** Often grows in large patches. Has a sour lemony taste.



### Habitat:

Wetlands and lake, river, or stream shores.

**Interesting point:** This species has an unpleasant and pungent flavour. It is known as Mild Water-Pepper because it lacks the peppery taste that is characteristic of other smartweeds.

**Similar species:** Dotted Smartweed (*Polygonum punctatum*) has white flowers, and the sepals and petals are dotted with small glands. Stout Smartweed (*Polygonum robustius*, page 22) is typically taller (up to 1 m), and robust with thick stems and white flowers. Marshpepper Knotweed (*Polygonum hydropiper*) is common and more weedy. Its flower clusters are more slender and the flowers are mostly greenish or whitish. All three species have a strong peppery taste.



Water Smartweed

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Flowers

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