

Swamp smartweed:

Polygonum punctatum



Swamp smartweed is a species of flowering plant in the knotweed family, native to the Americas. It can be found in moist and wet habitats of fresh and intermediate marshes usually on slightly elevated sites. It grows from a rhizome and produces erect stems which may just exceed 3 ft. in length.

Swamp smartweed produces seeds that are a favorite food for ducks and other birds, yet it contains a chemical that is offensive to grazing animals, producing a burning sensation on the tongue, hence its common name, “smartweed.”

