



Polygonum sagittatum

arrowleaf tearthumb

Family	Polygonaceae	
Origin	Native	
WIS Code	OBL	CoC 3

DESCRIPTION

This species is easy to identify by its sharp, claw-like bristles on both stems and underside of leaf veins and short fine hairs along the leaf margins. Stems (0.5 to 2 m long) are sprawling and vine-like, often becoming tangled with surrounding vegetation. Stems branch mostly from the base, often rooting at nodes on the lower plant and creating dense colonies. Leaves (4 to 12 cm long) are alternate, widely spaced, lance to arrow-shaped, deeply lobed and sometimes wrap the stem.



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FLOWERS AND FRUITS

May through September. Flowers are greenish to usually pink in tight, rounded, short clusters at the upper stem and in upper leaf axils (where leaf meets stem).



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HABITAT

Floodplain forests, wet meadows, bogs, fens, seeps and seepage swamps, marshes, ditches and disturbed wetlands.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Polygonum perfoliatum, Asiatic tearthumb or mile-a-minute, an exotic vine also armed with very sharp spines, has triangular leaves and distinctive blue-purple round fruits.



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Polygonum perfoliatum, fruits and leaves