




Persicaria virginiana

Virginia Knotweed, Jumpseed

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic



Earlier classified as *Polygonum virginianum* or *Tovara virginiana*, this native commonly occurs throughout much of the Mid-Atlantic Region. It also is called Jumpseed because pressure on its mature seeds causes them to jump off the plant for dispersal. The striking variegated foliage of the cultivar 'Painter's Palette' is the main attraction to this prolific spreader.*

Ground Cover	Species, 'Painter's Palette' Foliage and Fruit	
Height: 1–4 feet ('Painter's Palette' 1½–2 feet)		
Spread: 1½–3 feet		
Bloom Color: Greenish to pinkish white (red and white for 'Painter's Palette')		
Characteristics	 	
Clump-forming, herbaceous perennial with upright, arching stems and a knotty rhizome		
Broad, oval leaves with pointed tips; distinctive sheathed stem joints		
Widely spaced, tiny white flowers with 4 petal-like sepals in long, curving racemes in summer		
White oval fruit (red on 'Painter's Palette') with the persistent style drooping from the tip		
Spreads rapidly by rhizomes and self-seeding		
Attributes		
Tolerates drought, once established, and deer		
No serious pests or diseases		
Attracts butterflies		
Growing and Maintenance Tips	Excellent Replacement for	
Soil Requirements: Well-drained	<i>Hedera helix</i> - English Ivy	
Light Requirements: Partial Shade, Shade	<i>Liriope spicata</i> - Creeping Lily-Turf	
Water Requirements: Moist	<i>Polygonum cuspidatum</i> - Japanese Knotweed	
Plant on a site protected from wind	<i>Vinca minor</i> - Periwinkle	
Deadhead flowers or grow in a container to control spread; 'Painter's Palette' can spread aggressively		
Use in borders, in containers, in woodland gardens, or massed as a ground cover		
Hardiness: USDA Zones 4–8	*The origins of cultivar 'Painter's Palette' and whether its habit is aggressive or invasive is a matter of debate.	

Images by Elaine Mills (top), Potomac Overlook Regional Park & by Mary Free (bottom), Quarry Shade Garden