



# CRANBERRY CROP MANAGEMENT JOURNAL

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## Weed of the Week: Smartweeds and Tearthumbs

*By Allison Jonjak, Jed Colquhoun, Teryl Roper, and Josh Sulman*

Highlighting one popular (or unpopular) weed from the classic book [Weeds of the Cranberry Marsh: Jed Colquhoun, Teryl Roper, Josh Sulman. ©2009 by the Wisconsin Cranberry Board, Inc.](#)

This week we discuss the ever-present smartweed family: Water Smartweed, Pennsylvania Smartweed, Ladysthumb Smartweed, and Arrowleaf Tearthumb. [Link to PDF version here.](#)



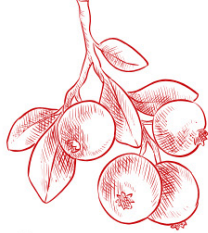
Weed  
of the  
Week

# Weed of the Week

## WEED OF THE WEEK

POLYGONUM AMPHIBIUM

### Smartweed: Water Smartweed



*Photos from Weeds of the Cranberry Marsh.*

#### life cycle / growth habit:

*perennial aquatic or terrestrial to 2 ft. tall*



flower cluster

#### root:

*creeping, shallow*



flowering plants

#### stem:

*floating or sprawling to erect on land*

#### leaf:

*alternate, untoothed, several inches long; narrow, and tapered to a pointed tip, forms a collar bristly or flared out where the leaf base wraps around the stem*

#### flower:

*dense, showy clusters of 1/8 in. pink-white flowers, cluster is narrow and 1-3 in. long; blooms June-September*



young plant

#### fruit/seed:

*black, shiny, 3-sided seed*

#### habitat:

*shallow water or exposed mud, moist soils*

## WEED OF THE WEEK

POLYGONUM PENNSYLVANICUM

### Smartweed: Pennsylvania Smartweed



*Photos from Weeds of the Cranberry Marsh.*

#### life cycle / growth habit:

*annual herb to 5 ft. tall*



flower cluster

#### root:

*N/A*



flowering plants

#### stem:

*erect and branched, smooth*

#### leaf:

*narrow and tapered to a point, forms a tight, membranous collar without bristles around the stem*

#### flower:

*clusters of 1/8 in. white to pink flowers; blooms July-September*



flowering plants in cranberry bed

#### fruit/seed:

*dark, 3-sided seed*

#### habitat:

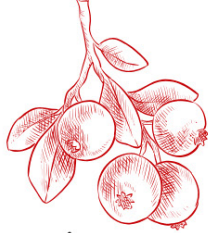
*common weed of wet ground*

# Weed of the Week

## WEED OF THE WEEK

POLYGONUM PERSICARIA

Smartweed:  
Ladysthumb Smartweed



*Photos from Weeds of the Cranberry Marsh.*

**life cycle / growth habit:**  
annual herb to 5 ft. tall



flower cluster

**root:**  
N/A



plants prior to  
flowering

**stem:**  
stem erect, branched

**leaf:**  
alternate, untoothed, narrow,  
with dark blotch in middle

**flower:**  
narrow clusters of 1/8 in.  
white to pink flowers;  
blooms July– September



leaf detail

**fruit/seed:**  
dark, 3-sided seed

**habitat:**  
common weed of wet, disturbed soil

## WEED OF THE WEEK

POLYGONUM SAGITTATUM

Smartweed:  
Arrowleaf Tearthumb



*Photos from Weeds of the Cranberry Marsh.*

**life cycle / growth habit:**  
annual herb to 3 ft. tall  
(occasionally 6 ft.)



flower cluster

**root:**  
N/A



flowering plants

**stem:**  
slender and weak, often laying  
on other vegetation, scratchy,  
with sharp, downward-pointing  
teeth

**leaf:**  
alternate, arrow-shaped with  
2 lobes clasping the stem

**flower:**  
small, round clusters of a  
few 1/8 in. pink to white  
flowers; blooms August–  
October



flowering plants  
in cranberry  
bed

**fruit/seed:**  
dark, 3-sided seed

**habitat:**  
common weed of moist ditches, wet roadsides

# Grower Updates

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## Flying Dollar Cranberry

*By Seth Rice*

Hello everybody, I hope everybody had a good time at field days! Thank you to Cutler for hosting the show this year. I know that my family and I had a really nice time. We had lots of visitors from all kinds of places attend. The berries are sizing up nicely and now we just need some more cooler nights to get some color throughout the whole canopy. Frost watching season is coming up quickly. Everyone is finished up with fertilizer and just watching to see how bad the flea beetle does damage to the crop. This year sure has been an unusual year weather wise. For all those in the Warrens area we are gearing up another year of Cranfest. Hopefully everyone has a good and safe Labor Day holiday!

## Vilas 51

*By Jeremiah Mabie*

Hello everyone I hope that you all had as great of a day at the summer field day as my family did! Hats off to everyone for a great set up! Everyone up north has harvest on their mind and getting everything out and ready to rock and roll. Overall we have had a pretty nice month for growing weather and the vines and berries are reflecting that. With little to no bug pressure and good weather it has been pretty easy growing. The couple of cooler nights we have had have been happily welcomed to help set that color and get things ready to harvest. I am currently planning on a mid Sept start date if all goes well. This is one of my favorite times of the season and I hope that you all have a very bountiful and safe start to harvest!

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## Update from the Wisconsin Cranberry Research Station

*By Wade Brockman*

We've had some cooler nights with mid 30s and nice sunny days. The new plantings continue to grow and fruit is still sizing up. I am moved into my new shop which is great. Now just starting to get stuff ready for the fast approaching harvest.

