



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 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	

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