

## 2020 March *Guess that Plant*



*Polygonum sagittatum* L., Arrowleaf Tearthumb

The March 2020 *Guess that Plant* is a native wetland smartweed. Arrowleaf tear thumb is found throughout New Jersey, where it is most abundant on rich hydric soils, and absent in the central Pinelands. The species is an obligate wetland species that is often found in open, freshwater meadows and marshes. An alternate synonym used by some authors is *Persicaria sagittatum*.

Arrowleaf tearthumb is aptly named. The leaves are narrow, arrowhead shaped, and evenly spread along the creeping stems. Retorse prickles set along the stem edges assist the plant as it climbs over other plants, as seen in the photo above. This plant can be found in rich wetlands. The plant is common on the edges of the Delaware River tidal marshes, and open non-tidal wet meadows outside of the Pine Barrens. Plants can be found sprouting in May, growing and expanding until July, and fruiting until the end of the season.

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