

**Kiss me over the garden gate (*Polygonum orientale*)**

**Also called:** Prince's feather

**Family name:** Polygonum (*Polygonaceae*)

**Native range:** India

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 1 – Rare (may be locally common). It is *moderately threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Annual with thick taproot
- Tall, 6'-7'
- Stems erect, covered in short hairs
- Stems have a thin, bristled sheath (ocreae) covering joints along the stem



**Leaves:**

- Lance-shaped to broadly lance-shaped
- Larger leaves 6" wide by 10" long

**Flowers:**

- Small, pink to deep magenta
- Clustered in a terminal spike, 3"-4" long
- Stiff to somewhat drooping
- Blooms June-October



**Fruit:**

- Small, shiny black seed
- Readily self-sows



Sheath covering joints. Bristles appear at the top of the sheath.

**Habitat:**

- Meadow, roadside, landscaping, garden
- Sun to part sun, average moisture

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Lady's thumb, heart's ease (*Persicaria maculosa*)**

- Annual, 1'-2' tall
- Ubiquitous weed of roadsides, gardens, weedy areas, moist areas
- Flowers small, pink to deep magenta
- Leaves have a dark green mark along the midrib



*Persicaria maculosa* growing from sidewalk crack.

**Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*)**

**Giant knotweed (*Polygonum sachalinense*)**

See Giant knotweed Fact Sheet for more information.

- Invasive perennial
- Leaves oval and occasionally heart-shaped
- White flowers long stems
- Riparian areas, roadsides, gardens
- Prefers moist areas

Left to right:  
Giant knotweed  
Bohemian knotweed  
Japanese knotweed  
Leaves and flowers

