



# Oriental Ladysthumb

*Polygonum caespitosum* Blume var. *longisetum* (Bruijn)Steward

**Common Names:** Asiatic smartweed, bristled knotweed, bunchy knotweed, long-bristled smartweed, oriental ladysthumb

**Native Origin:** eastern Asia in China, Japan, Korea, India and Malaysia

**Description:** An herbaceous annual in the Buckwheat family (*Polygonaceae*) that can reach 3.2 feet in height. The stems can be erect or prostrate, freely branched, reddish in color and swollen at the nodes. The thin, dark green, alternately arranged leaves are lanceolate to elliptic in shape and measure .75-3 inches long and 0.5-1.25 inches wide. The leaves are mostly glabrous, but the older leaves can sometimes have hairs on the margins and veins on the lower leaf surface. Flowers are clustered in terminal spikes at the ends of stems. Individual flowers are small, 0.75-1.5 inches in length and 0.2 inches across, and are dark pink to red in color. The flowers appear from July to October. The black, smooth, shiny achene's are 0.07-0.1 inches in size and are dispersed mechanically. The roots are fibrous with a shallow taproot.



**Habitat:** It grows in moist soil and can grow in low light situations. It is often found in poor soils and can tolerate a wide range of pH (4.8 to 8). It can be found on ridge tops, open woods, trails, and roadsides near damp or wet places.

**Distribution:** This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in CT, KY, MD, MI, TN, VA, and WV.

**Ecological Impacts:** It has the potential to invade shaded natural areas and out-compete other native species that thrive in moist, shaded habitats.



**Control and Management:**

- **Manual-** Hand pull or dig up small infestations; mow frequently
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate. Use herbicides approved for aquatic application. Follow label and state requirements.

**References:**

<http://plants.usda.gov>, [www.nps.gov/plants/alien/](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/), [www.se-eppc.org/states/TN/TNList.html](http://www.se-eppc.org/states/TN/TNList.html),  
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