

# Persicaria maculosa

## COMMON NAME

willow weed

## SYNONYMS

*Polygonum persicaria*

## FAMILY

Polygonaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Persicaria maculosa* Gray

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## NVS CODE

POLPER

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

Usually is a hydrophyte but occasionally found in uplands (non-wetlands).

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Stems smooth sometimes hairy, much-branched, 15 to 90 cm tall. Leaves alternate, pointed at both ends, 2.5 to 15 cm long, with smooth edges and usually a dark spot in the middle. Sheath at base of the leaf fringed with short bristles (Wax, Fawcett and Isely 1981).

## FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

## YEAR NATURALISED

1878

## ORIGIN

Temperate N. Hemisphere.

## ETYMOLOGY

**persicaria:** Medieval name referring to the likeness of the leaves to a peach tree

**maculosa:** From Latin 'macula' blotch, meaning full of blotches or mottled

## Seed

Seeds almost circular, flattened

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/persicaria-maculosa/>



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Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River north of Stokes Valley, Lower Hutt. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 23/04/2006, Licence: CC BY.