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Wild buckwheat

Polygonum convolvulus L.

Life cycle: Twining summer annual vine.

Leaves: Cotyledons are oblong-oval to linear. Leaves are alternate, hairless and heart- to triangle-shaped with a pointed tip and smooth margins.

Stems: Twining, herbaceous, smooth vines branch at the base and are less than 3 feet long. A membranous sheath (ocrea) surrounds the stem at the base of each petiole.

Flowers and fruit: Flowers are inconspicuous and green to white or pink. The seed is enclosed in a single-seeded, dull black, three-sided fruit.

Reproduction: Seeds.



Fruit of wild buckwheat.



Wild buckwheat seedling.

All photos this page: Steven A. Gower



Wild buckwheat plant.



Wild buckwheat flowers.



Wild buckwheat leaf.

Similar weeds

Mile-a-minute (*P. perfoliatum* L.). Differs by having downward-pointing prickles on the stems, petioles and leaf veins.

Tartary buckwheat [*Fagopyrum tataricum* (L.) Gaertn.]. Differs by having a more erect habit, arrow-shaped leaves and a grooved, hollow stem.