

Persicaria maculosa

COMMON NAMES

willow weed, redshank

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink, White

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).

GENUS

Persicaria

FAMILY

Polygonaceae

AUTHORITY

Persicaria maculosa Gray

SYNONYMS

Polygonum persicaria

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

YEAR NATURALISED

1878

ORIGIN

Temperate N. Hemisphere.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Seeds almost circular, flattened.

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

FACW: Facultative Wetland

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

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



Te Awa Kairangi / Hutt River. Photographer: Jeremy R. Rolfe, Date taken: 06/05/2006, Licence: CC BY.



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

NVS CODE

PERMCL

MORE INFORMATION

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

PDF DATE

27 May 2026