

Water Smartweed

Polygonum amphibium

-Water Smartweed is such a cool plant that I wish that I would have invented it. This one plant has two entirely separate sets of genes. Awesome, yes, but true! So what's the story behind this amazing gee whiz science fact you ask excitedly, well here we go. This species is an ancient hybrid between terrestrial and aquatic ancestors. This gives it the complete double set of genes which it can turn on and off depending on the water conditions, so much in fact that you can tell the history of the water level of a water body by looking at the Water Smartweed forms.

-Because of the abundant production of large fruits, large stands of Water Smartweed are valuable food source for birds and other wildlife.

-So check this out: Plant some of these beauties directly by your shoreline and if the water level happens to drop, no problem, it will just turn off the genes that make it an aquatic plant and turn on the genes that make it a terrestrial plant. Like I said, I wish I would have invented it.

-I give the evolutionary characteristics of Water Smartweed two opposable thumbs up.



It is not the strongest of the species that survive, nor the most intelligent, but the ones most responsive to change.

-Charles Darwin