

American Bistort

Polygonum bistortoides



Plant and Leaves:

- Plant tall (12-24 inches), with long unbranched stem
- Leaves mostly basal with distinct petioles (stalks); oblong 4-8 inches long with distinctly light colored midrib. Stem leaves reduced with sheath attachment in place of petioles.

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Budding:

- Many small buds cluster on top of a stem that is 1-2 feet (30-60cm)



Flowering:

- Flowers are white, bristle-brush-like
- 8 stamens protrude from each blossom, looking like bristles
- The flowers smell awful (this plant is fly-pollinated and this is how it attracts pollinators)



Ripening Fruit:

- The flowers stay attached to the fruits but if you were to touch them they would feel hard (don't touch in the plots!)
- You know the plant is fruiting when the base of each flower turns reddish



Releasing Seed:

- The white flower-looking structures fall off leaving the bare stalk
- The stalk is rusty-red and still appears hairy