



water pepper

Polygonum hydropiperoides

Kingdom: Plantae
Division/Phylum: Anthophyta - flowering plants
Class:
Order:
Family:

FEATURES

Water pepper is a perennial herb with upright stems that are usually branched and may be one foot long. Arranged alternately along the stem, the lance-shaped leaves are about four inches long. Each leaf has a sheath bearing bristles at the base of the leaf stalk. The white to pink flowers are less than one-fourth inch long. Flowers are arranged in clusters along the stem. The black, triangular fruits are about one-eighth inch long.

BEHAVIORS

Water pepper grows in wet soil such as that found in roadside ditches, marshes and wet meadows. This plant flowers from July through October.

HABITATS

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> bottomland forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> rivers & streams |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lakes, ponds & reservoirs | <input type="checkbox"/> swamps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lake Michigan | <input type="checkbox"/> temp water supplies |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> marshes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> wet prairies & fens |
| <input type="checkbox"/> peatlands | |

ILLINOIS STATUS

- | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> common | <input type="checkbox"/> endangered | <input type="checkbox"/> threatened |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <u>native</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> <u>exotic</u> | |

ILLINOIS RANGE

statewide

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Illinois Department of Natural Resources. 1999.
Biodiversity of Illinois, Volume I: Aquatic Habitats CD-ROM.