

## Prostrate Knotweed

*Polygonum aviculare* L.

### Alternate Names

knotweed, wireweed, hogweed, common knotgrass, matgrass, doorweed, pinkweed, birdgrass, stonegrass, waygrass

### Description

Prostrate knotweed is an annual plant that grows prostrate and mat-like, with long, spreading branches, small leaves, and tiny flowers in the axils of the leaves. Prostrate stems grow up to 3 feet long. Leaves are alternate, oval, apex-pointed, and hairless. Stipules are pointed and toothed. Stems are tough, wiry, and hairless, with longitudinal grooves and a sheath surrounding the stems at the nodes. Stems generally sprawl over the ground surface but may have an erect habit among other plants. Flowers are small and pink, with 1–5 in axillary clusters.



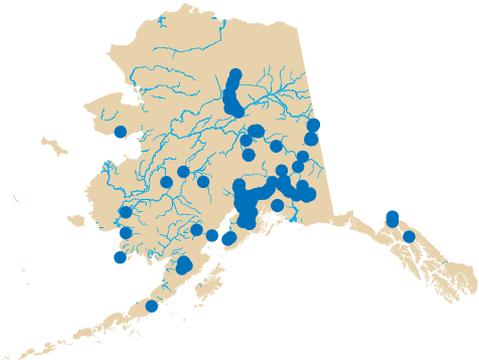
KULAK photo by Paul Busselen

### Management

Plants are easily pulled up by hand, although several weedings may be necessary to eliminate plants germinating from buried seeds (Densmore et al. 2001).

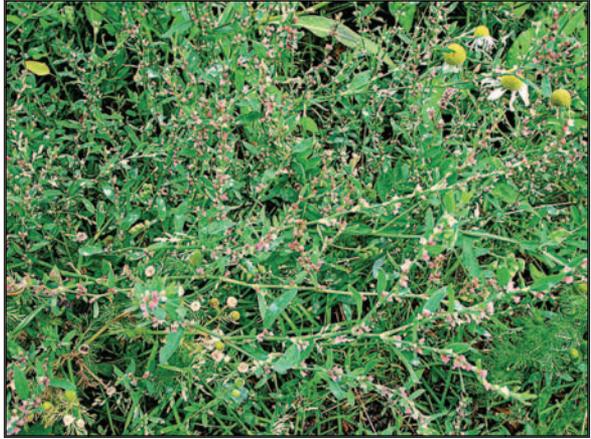
### Notes

The origin of prostrate knotweed is unknown, but it may have come from Eurasia. Other common names include waygrass and doorweed, reflecting its propensity to grow in firmly packed soils. This plant has been shown to be an important food for partridge chicks and is also a favored food of seed-eating birds.



**Family: Polygonaceae**

**Prostrate Knotweed**



*KULAK photo by Paul Busselen*