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*Persicaria orientalis*

[Synonyms : *Amblygonum orientale*, *Persicaria cochinchinensis*, *Persicaria pilosa*, *Polygonum cordobense*, *Polygonum orientale*, *Polygonum orientale* var. *pilosum*, *Polygonum pilosum*, *Polygonum spaethii*]

**PRINCE'S FEATHER** is an annual that is native to Australia and to eastern and south-eastern Asia, it has small hanging, pink to rose-purple or white flowers.

It is also known as Garden persicary, Gentleman's cane, *Hong cao* (Chinese), *Hong liao* (Chinese), *Hung ts'ao* (Chinese-Cantonese), *Ida-kirburohi* (Estonian), Kiss-me-over-the-fence, Kiss-me-over-the-garden-gate, Ladyfingers, Love-lies-bleeding, *Nghê bà* (Vietnamese), *Nghê đông* (Vietnamese), *Oo benitade* (Japanese), *Ooke tade* (Japanese), Oriental persicary, *Östlicher Knöterich* (German), *Persicaire du Levant* (French), *Pha kuang* (Thai), *Poligono orientale* (Italian), Prince's plume, Princess feather, *Purpurpilört* (Swedish), *Purppuratatar* (Finnish, Norwegian), Ragged sailor, *Rdesno východní* (Czech), *Rdest wschodni* (Polish), *Renouée d'Orient* (French), *Shui hong hua zi* (Chinese), and Tall persicary,.

Warning – there have been claims that the plant is poisonous for livestock (internally and externally) but these seem as yet to have been unproven.

The plant has been declared an invasive weed in the state of Tennessee in the United States.

*Orientalis* means 'of or from the East'.

South-eastern Asian experts believe that prince's feather is primarily appreciated in that region as a vegetable and the uses of its poisonous qualities are of secondary importance. The leaves are eaten in many countries (not least as a famine food), as well as in China the young shoots and the seeds.

The plant is cultivated as an ornamental in the United States – and the flowers are used in fresh arrangements.

Medicinally, Chinese medicine has used the steamed or roasted seeds as a lung tonic. They have also been used to treat fever and ease wind.