ONAGRACEAE
Epilobium angustifolium L.
Epan
fireweed, blooming Sally

FORM: Glabrous, deciduous, perennial forb from widespread rhizomelike roots, 1-3m (3-10ft) tall.
LEAVES: Alternate, sessile, entire, willowlike, narrowly lanceolate, 10-15cm (4-6in) long, prominent white mid-vein, distinct venation pattern is created by the connection of the lateral veins at the margins.
FLOWERS: Pink to purple, 4-merous, short-clawed (1) petals, 8-20mm long, in many-flowered, terminal racemes; June-Sept.
FRUIT: Linear, green to red, dehiscent capsule (2), 5-8cm (2-3in) long, seeds long, soft hairy from tip.
ENEMIES: Fire: resistant, regeneration from rhizomes and seed to preburn levels within 1-2 years.
HABITAT: Widespread, successional species; common along roads and old burns.
NOTES: Edible, crisp, peeled stem, older leaves used for tea; dried seed pods make excellent tinder.