

Winter vetch

Vicia villosa

Description

Considered one of the most cultivated vetch species. Introduced as fodder in the United States in the 1700s.

Habit

Hardy, frost tolerant, hairy, climbing annual that can grow up to 150 cm tall.

Leaves

Paripinnate, compound, ends in a tendril, 5-12 pairs of elliptical leaflets.

Stems

Flowers

Blue, violet, purple or white in color; dense raceme with 7-22 drooping flowers, 0.5-0.75 in. long; calyx is hairy, swollen with 5 lobes.

Fruits and Seeds

Flattened pod containing 2-8 rounded seeds that are 3 mm in diameter.





Habitat

Native to North Africa, Europe and Asia. Can be found in vineyards, orchards, plantations, and croplands.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Bird vetch (*Vicia cracca*) which has a smooth stem.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Handpull small infestations before seeding along with a combination of mowing and herbicides have been effective. Clopyralid and other selective herbicides can be used.

Credits

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