

Perennial pea

Lathyrus latifolius

Description

Popular garden plant but very difficult to remove.
Seeds are toxic.

Habit

Trailing or climbing, perennial; up to 6 ft long forb;
numerous tendrils, from rhizomes.

Leaves

Alternate, pinnate with 2 leaflets on
broadly-winged stalks, oval to lance-shaped,
symmetrical leaf-like appendages at the base.

Stems

Erect; broadly winged; 6 ft tall; herbaceous;
climbing; glabrous; typically glaucous.

Flowers

White to purplish-red in color, 5-parted, 1/2-1
in long, inflorescence a long-stalked cluster
(raceme) of 4-10 stalked flowers.

Fruits and Seeds

Long, narrow, smooth pod with 10-15





black/brown seeds.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Found along roadsides, railroads, fencerows, open fields, sometimes cultivated.

Reproduction

Vegetatively or by reseeding itself.

Similar

Sweet pea (*Lathyrus odoratus*) and Caley pea (*Lathyrus hirsutus*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pull young vines; cut, making sure to remove all fragments and runners; dig out root system.

Credits

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