

Cow vetch

Vicia cracca

Description

Species is a large concern in prairie and other natural habitat restoration or land reclamation projects.

Habit

Herbaceous, climbing or trailing, perennial, up to 3 ft long forb, 1-3 ft taproot.

Leaves

Pinnately-divided into 5-11 pairs of linear leaflets, leaf tips with tendrils.

Stems

Weak; range from 2-3 ft high; clamber over other vegetation; smothering; spreading hairs.

Flowers

Blue in color, 5-parted, 1/2 in long, calyx base not swollen, inflorescence a crowded, long-stalked cluster (raceme) with 20-50 stalked flowers.

Fruits and Seeds

Seeds are contained in numerous inch long pods,





brownish lance-shaped and flat.

Habitat

Native to Eurasia. Found in fields, roadsides, meadows.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

American vetch (*Vicia americana*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Pulling small infestations before seeds develop; spray with selective herbicide such as clopyralid.

Credits

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