

Goatsrue

Galega officinalis

Description

Introduced to the western United States in the late 1800s as a possible forage crop. This species is listed on the USDA Federal Noxious Weed List.

Habit

Capable of forming dense crowns that can regenerate for several seasons.

Leaves

Pinnately compound, up to 22 cm long with 11-17 elliptic to lanceolate leaflets, 1-5 cm. long.

Stems

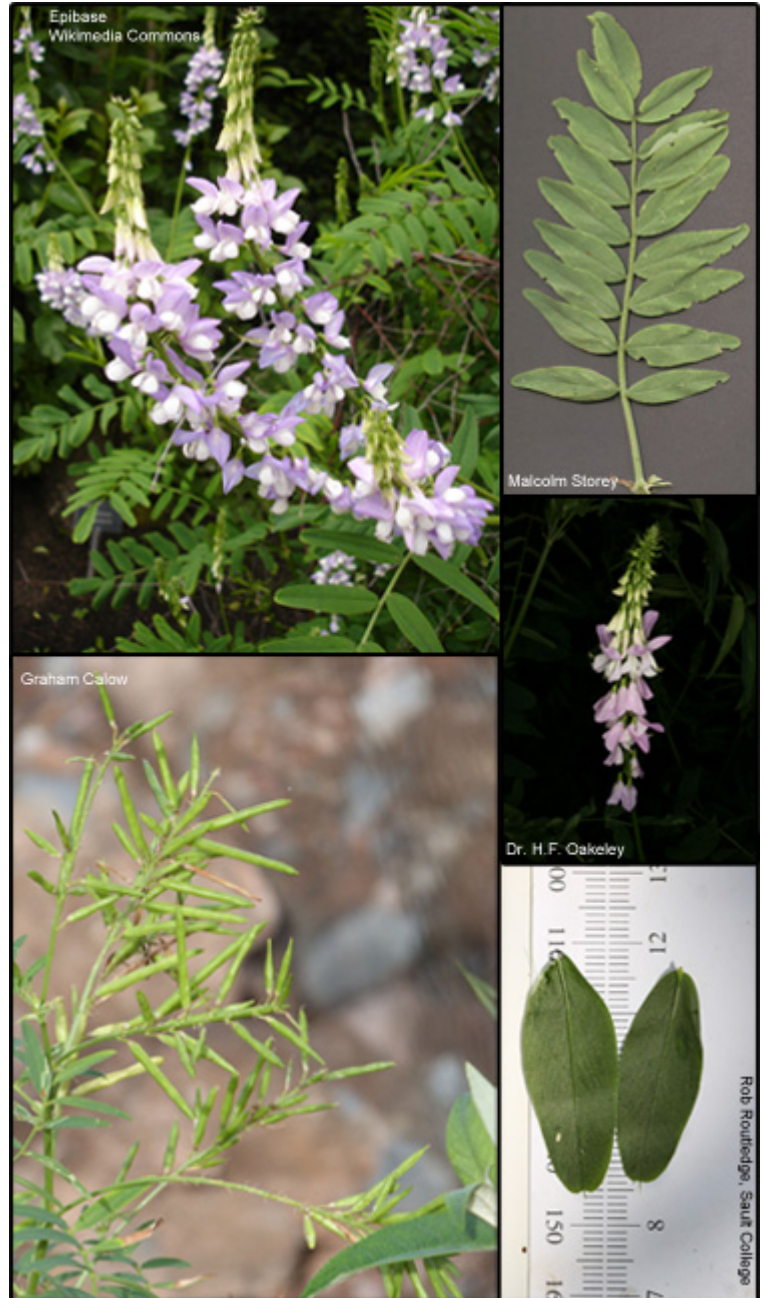
Glabrous and reaching a height of 30-50 in.

Flowers

Inflorescence of 20-50 purple to white flowers, about 1 cm. long, arranged in terminal or axillary racemes.

Fruits and Seeds

Cylindrical pod, 2-4 cm. long with up to 9 seeds.





Seeds are dull, mustard yellow, oblong and 2.5-3 mm. long.

Habitat

Native to southern Europe and western Asia. Can be found in stream banks and moist areas.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Crown vetch (*Securigera varia*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Can be controlled using 2,4-D with dicamba. Cutting and mowing have been shown to not be effective control methods. Capable of flowering and producing seeds on short branches that develop after cutting several times.

Credits

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture Bureau of Plant Industry Weed Circular No. 22. Individual species images that appear with a number in a black box are courtesy of the Bugwood.org network (<http://www.invasive.org>). Individual photo author credits may not be included due to the small display size of the images and subsequent difficulty of reading the provided text. All other images appear courtesy of Google (<http://images.google.com>).