

Flat pea

Lathyrus sylvestris

Description

Produces chemicals which are toxic found within the seeds.

Habit

Climbing; perennial; herbaceous; ranges from 6-7 ft; normal range of 18-30 in; dense vegetative mat.

Leaves

Composed of two long, narrow leaflets with parallel veins; bears a tendril that extend from the center of leaf.

Stems

Leaf-like appendages (winged).

Flowers

Deep pink to reddish brown in color.

Fruits and Seeds

Round and black in color, borne in a pod 2-3 in long, tapered at both ends, mature fruit are yellowish legumes.





Habitat

Found in fields; areas of human activity such as roadsides and wooded areas.

Reproduction

By seeds dispersal is short range.

Similar

When flowering can be easily confused with species of Crownvetch (*Coronilla* spp.), Vetch (*Vicia* spp.), and Violet (*Viola* spp.). Also similar to Perennial/Everlasting Pea (*Lathyrus latifolius*).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pulling; mowing.

Credits

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