



ALERT!

GOATSRUE

Galega officinalis

USDA

APHIS/PPQ
CCE
NYS - DEC,
DOT, DPW,
DOH, DEP
PRISM

invasive species



Goatsrue is a tall, herbaceous plant that invades wet, disturbed areas in Utah, Pennsylvania, and New York. Goatsrue is listed as a Federal Noxious Weed. Plants are shrubby and multi-stemmed with alternate, pinnately compound leaves. Purple, white and rose, pea-like flowers are arranged in terminal or axillary racemes. Fruit are short pods with up to 9 seeds each. Goatsrue invades wet disturbed areas such as streambanks, low pastures and ditches. It can form dense thickets and is toxic to livestock. Goatsrue, a native to Southern Europe and the Mediterranean was first introduced into the United States in Utah in 1891 as forage for livestock.

MEDICAL USAGE

- Relief of diabetes mellitus symptoms
- Contains guanidine that decreases blood sugar by decreasing insulin resistance
- Leaves stimulate development of mammary glands and is one of the most potent herbs to increase breast milk
- Used to increase breast size in non-lactating women
- Increases sweating to bring down a fever
- Native American tribes at various times used to treat rheumatism, fevers, pulmonary problems, bladder disorders, coughing, hair loss and reproductive disorders



WHERE TO LOOK

Cropland, water-ways, pastures, fence lines, prairies, open woodlands, roadways, and wet, marshy areas



GOATSRUE GROWTH HABIT

From the several-headed root, rise erect stems, about 3-6 feet high, smooth and branched, bearing pinnate leaves with 6 to 8 pairs of lance-shaped leaflets, 3/4 to 2 inches long with an odd terminal one. The leaflets are bright green, smooth (or very slightly hairy), on short foot-stalks.



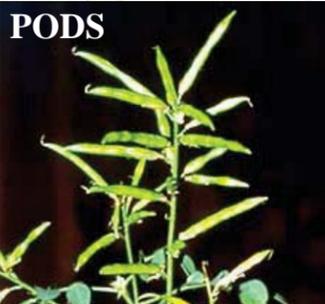
FLOWER DESCRIPTION

- The small lilac, purplish or white flowers are in axillary racemes and produce narrow, almost cylindrical pods.
- The plant is without scent, unless bruised, when it emits a disagreeable odour whence perhaps its name of goatsrue.
- It has a mucilaginous and somewhat bitter and astringent taste. It colours the saliva yellowish-green, if chewed.



SEEDS

Seeds are dull yellow, bean shaped and approximately 2.5-3mm long



PODS

Seed pods are narrow and about 1 inch long



FOLIAGE

- Alternate, pinnately compound leaves with 6 to 10 pairs of leaflets (1-5cm long).
- Tip of each leaflet has a small hair-like appendage.
- Stems are hollow and cylindrical



GOATSRUE FIELD

- Purple to white, pea-like flowers are borne in terminal or axillary racemes containing 20-50 flowers.
- Plant blooms from June throughout the growing season.
- Perennial legume that ranges from 2-6 feet in height.

The federal-state Cooperative Agricultural Pest Survey (CAPS) program is focused on the early detection of exotic invasive agricultural pests. State inspectors and cooperators target invasive insects, diseases and weeds considered to have a high probability for introduction and establishment in the State and the U.S. Exotic Invasives have the potential to seriously impede our ability to move plants and plant products domestically and abroad in addition to posing a significant risk to the environment.

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