

INVASIVE SPECIES ALERT!

Goat's rue (*Galega officinalis*)

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?

DESCRIPTION

- Native to Europe, Western Asia, and Northern Africa.
- Herbaceous perennial in the legume family.
- Grows upright, 60-180 cm tall.
- Multiple hollow stems from deep taproot.
- Seedling leaves are large, dark green, and oval-shaped.
- Leaves are alternate, pinnately compound, with 12 to 20 leaflets, and lacking tendrils at leaf tips.
- Purple, blue, or white pea-like flowers grow in clusters at the end of stem.
- Flowers from June through September.
- Each blossom produces a straight, narrow, smooth pod.
- Seed pods are pea-like, containing 1 to 9 seeds.
- Seeds are greenish-yellow, long and oval, with a notch in the side.



REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES

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www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species

PRIMARY THREATS: Contaminates alfalfa crops, toxic to livestock & humans, and reduces plant biodiversity.

BIOLOGY & SPREAD

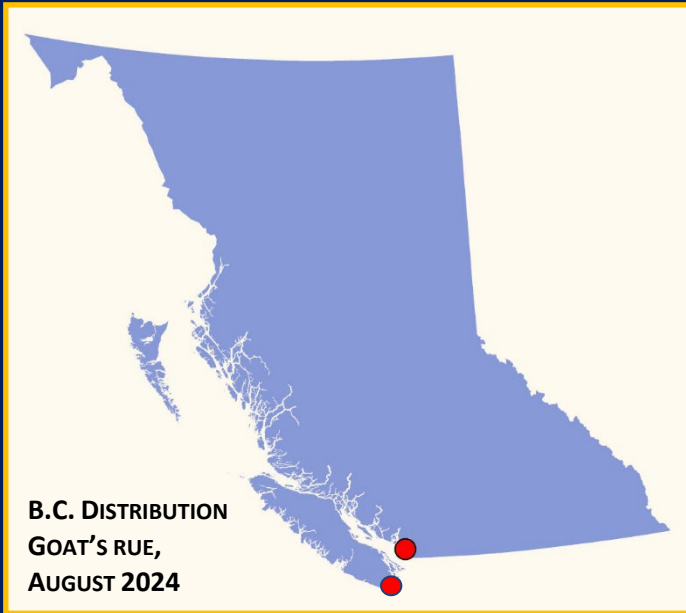
- Goat's rue reproduces by seed.
- Each plant can produce up to 15,000 seed pods.
- Seeds fall near the plant and disperse locally by rain, erosion, animals, and human activity.
- Seeds can remain viable in soil for over 10 years.
- Long distance dispersal includes livestock, vehicles, equipment, and contaminated grain and hay.

For more information:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/invasive-species/priority-species/priority-plants>



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LOOK-ALIKES

- Common vetch (*Vicia cracca*)
- Chick-pea milk vetch (*Astragalus cicer*)
- Wild licorice (*Glycyrrhiza lepidota*)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- **Learn** to identify
- **REPORT** new sightings
- **Minimize** soil disturbance
- **Remove** seeds from clothing and footwear before moving between areas
- **Select** non-invasive species for your garden



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DISTRIBUTION & STATUS

- Management goal is provincial eradication.
- Limited occurrences in Metro Vancouver and Greater Victoria.
- Federally regulated under the *Seed Act*.

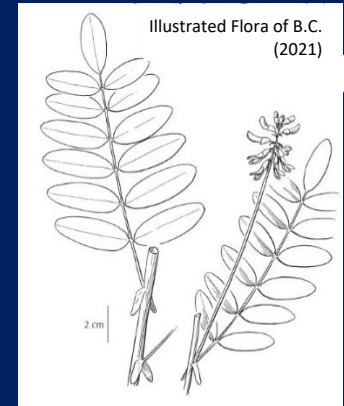
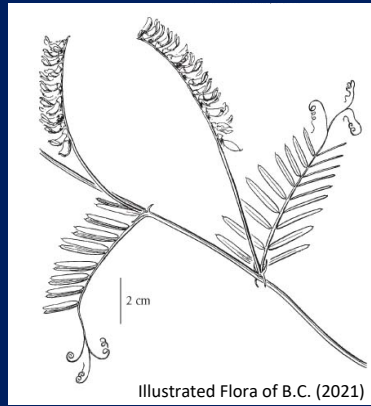
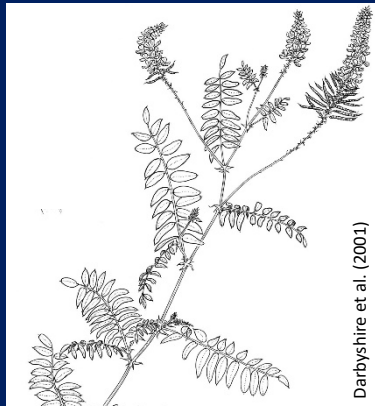


HABITAT

- Frequently found in fields, pastures, rangelands, grasslands, riverbanks, roadsides, and disturbed sites.
- Prefers moist, nutrient poor soils and full sun.



Goat's Rue Identification and Look-Alikes



	Goat's rue <i>Galega officinalis</i>	Common vetch <i>Vicia spp</i>	Wild licorice <i>Glycyrrhiza lepidota</i>	Milk vetch <i>Astragalus spp</i>
General	*Upright, 0.4-1.5 m tall	*Prostrate, trailing, or climbing, 0.15-1 m long/tall	*Upright, 0.3-1 m tall	* Upright, 0.3-1.0 m tall
Leaves	*Terminal leaflet, lacking tendrils at leaf tips *Small hair-like projection at each leaflet tip * Lateral veins of leaflets extend to leaflet edges *Alternate leaves, 13-21 leaflets (1-5 cm long) per leaf	*Tendrils at leaf tips, lacking terminal leaflet *Leaves alternate, 8-20 pairs of leaflets (1-3.5 cm long) per leaf	*Terminal leaflet, lacking tendrils at leaf tips * Underside of mature leaves dotted with resinous glands * Leaves alternate, 7-19 leaflets (2-5 cm long) per leaf	*Terminal leaflet, lacking tendrils at leaf tips * Alternate leaves (5-20 cm long), 9-17 leaflets (1-4 cm long) per leaf * Lateral veins of leaflets join each other and do not extend to leaflet edges
Stems	*Up to 20 hollow, round stems	* Single hollow stem	*Solid stems, sticky with unstalked glands	*Solitary to several branched to unbranched stems covered with short, soft, flat-lying hairs
Flowers	*Dense to loose, spike-like clusters (8-27 cm long including stalk) of pea-like flowers on the upper stems	*Loose, clusters of 3 to 9 pea-like flowers (clusters shorter than the adjoining leaves)	*Dense, spike-like clusters (2-7 cm long) of many pea-like flowers, shorter than adjoining leaves)	*Dense, spike-like clusters (2-9 cm long) of many pea-like flowers
Roots	*Long, fleshy, whitish taproot	*Rhizome or taproot	*Deep, woody, aromatic licorice scented rhizomes	*Rhizome
Seeds	*Straight, smooth, narrow seed pods, 2.5 cm long	*Straight, hairy to smooth seed pods, 2.5-7 cm long	*Bur-like seed pods with hooked bristles, 1-2 cm long	* 1-2-chambered seed pods with smooth to stiff hairs, 0.7-3 cm long