

Washington Invasive Ranking System

Washington Natural Heritage Program

Lathyrus sylvestris (Narrow-Leaf Peavine)

Assessed by

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Ecological Impact Rank: **Moderate** (47)

Confidence: **High** (83)

Management Difficulty Rank: High (70)

Confidence: High (70)

Biological Characteristics of Invasiveness: High (92)

Confidence: High (75)

Concern Related to Distribution and Abundance: High (91)

Confidence: High (100)



Photo Credit: Peter Zika 2025, used under Creative Commons license (iNaturalist Community, 2025).

Ranking Notes

Rapid assessment only, based primarily on professional expertise. This species was assessed concurrently with *Lathyrus latifolius* and much of the information is the same. *Lathyrus latifolius* and *L. sylvestris* have similar appearance, ecological impacts and management techniques, though *L. latifolius* is more common in Washington (R. Johnson, pers. comm. 2024).

Legal Listings

[Washington State Weed Board](#): No

[Washington Invasive Species Council](#): No

Section 1: Distribution and Abundance

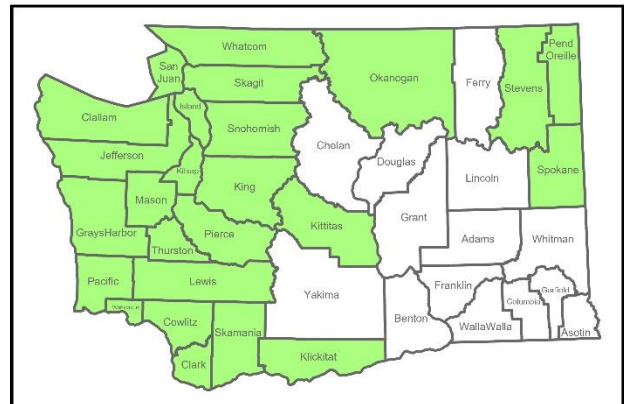


Figure 1. Distribution of counties where *Lathyrus sylvestris* has been documented in Washington State (CPNWH, 2024; EDDMapS, 2024; iNaturalist Community, 2024).

Q1: Current Range Size in Washington

Rating: High

Confidence: High

This species is found in 64% of counties in Washington (CPNWH, 2024; EDDMapS, 2024; iNaturalist Community, 2024).

Source: Professional expertise, Herbarium records

Q2: Current Trend in Total Range

Rating: High

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q3: Proportion of Potential Range Currently Unoccupied

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q4: Local Range Expansion or Change in Abundance

Rating: High

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q5: Diversity of Ecosystems Invaded

Ecosystem types: Forest & Woodland, Grassland & Shrubland

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Section 2: Biological Characteristics

Q6: Aggressive Mode of Reproduction

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q7: Innate Potential for Long-Distance Dispersal

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

This plant is toxic to wildlife and primarily spreads via violent dehiscion and vegetative reproduction (Burnham, 2013; Sweet, 2020).

Source: Published research, Professional expertise

Q8: Potential to be Spread by Human Activities

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q9: Allelopathy

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q10: Competitive for Limiting Abiotic Factors

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q11: Growth Form

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q12: Germination Requirements

Rating: Yes

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q13: Invasiveness of Other Plants in Genus

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q14: Shade Tolerance

Rating: Low/Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q15: Disturbance Tolerance

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q16: Propagule Persistence

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q17: Palatability

Rating: Yes, plant is unpalatable

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Section 3: Ecological Impact

Q18: Impact on Ecosystem Abiotic Processes

Abiotic Processes: Nutrient dynamics, Light availability

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q19: Impact on Ecosystem Structure

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q20: Impact on Ecosystem Composition

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q21: Impact on Particular Native Species

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q22: Observed Ability to Invade Undisturbed Ecosystems

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

This species establishes best with some level of disturbance present.

Source: Professional expertise

Q23: Observed Ability to Invade Naturally Disturbed Ecosystems

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Section 4: Management Difficulty

Q24: General Management Difficulty

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q25: Minimum Time Commitment

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: Moderate

Constant reintroduction extends the time commitment for treating this species.

Source: Professional expertise

Q26: Impacts of Management on Native Species

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: Moderate

This species can't be manually treated (digging or pulling). Spraying will result in collateral damage of co-occurring species because this plant grows over and through neighboring plants.

Source: Professional expertise

Q27: Inaccessibility of Invaded Areas

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: High

This species is commonly found on beach bluffs, road cuts, and slides.

Source: Professional expertise

Q28: Sociopolitical Implications of Management

Rating: High

Confidence: Moderate

Some people may mistake this species for a sweet pea and object to management based on that misconception.

Source: Professional expertise

Additional Comments

None

References

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