

GOATSRUE

Galega officinalis

Fabaceae, the pea family

Category: EDRR

Nathan Belliston, Utah Weed Control Association

FACTSHEET INFORMATION

Summary of Invasiveness

- Goatsrue is an invasive plant that forms dense monoculture thickets, overtaking waterways and inhibiting the growth of native plants.
- It is unpalatable and toxic to cattle and horses.
- Goatsrue was temporarily listed on Idaho's noxious weed list as an EDRR species after a confirmed presence was discovered in Mink Creek, Franklin County, Idaho.

Description

- Shrubby, herbaceous perennial that can grow up to 6 feet tall.
- Leaves are alternate, pinnately compound, with 5-8 leaflet pairs.
- Flowers are arranged in terminal or axillary racemes that bloom in late spring, and are purple to white in color.
- Flowers produce 1 inch spike-shaped seedpods that can contain up to 9 seeds.

Introduction and Movement

- Goatsrue is native to the Middle East and was intentionally introduced to the U.S in 1891 for a forage crop study at Utah State University. When the study concluded, the plant stands were not destroyed, eventually spreading via the valley's irrigation systems.
- Inhabits moist, disturbed areas such as along streams, canals, and riparian areas.
- Can easily spread by seed dispersal via water current and human and animal vectors.

Prevention Strategy

- To prevent accidental introductions, learn how to identify goatsrue and report any sightings.
- When gardening, always research plants before planting and only purchase seeds from licensed nurseries.
- Make sure to remove and properly dispose of all seed and plant materials on vehicles, clothing, shoes and pets before you exit or enter outdoor recreational sites.
- Always Remember To: **KNOW WHAT YOU GROW & KNOCK IT OFF!**

Sources

- CABI Invasive Species Compendium: <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/24756>
- Utah Weed Control Association: http://www.utahweed.org/weed_goatsruecss.html



USDA APHIS PPQ - Oxford, North Carolina, USDA APHIS PPQ, Bugwood.org



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DISTRIBUTION MAP

