

“B” Rated Weeds

A weed of economic importance which is regionally abundant, but may have limited distribution in some counties

Perennial peavine
Lathyrus latifolius

Other common names: Everlasting peavine, everlasting-pea, perennial pea, perennial sweetpea

USDA symbol: CEDI3
ODA rating: B



Introduction: Perennial peavine is a widely established European native identified in every state except Florida and North Dakota. It is very invasive on road shoulders and seasonally dry meadows. The plant was sold as a component in wildflower mixes and also used for erosion control and restoration. The small round seeds are a favorite food of quail and pheasants.

Distribution in Oregon: The plant can be easily found in all westside counties. On the eastside, Baker County has the first confirmed case of a large infestation in a ponderosa pine forest. Additional sites are increasing in number in Central Oregon.

Description: Annual growth emerges from perennial roots each spring to a length of 2 to 7 feet. Stems are broadly winged with long, well developed tendrils. Pea-like flowers are an inch long and can be white, red or pink. Leaflets are well-developed stipules that are 1-2 inches long. Growth becomes very dense often completely covering all other low-growing vegetation. Vines are often found growing up into trees and shrubs. Seeds are brown colored, produced in pods and are $\frac{2}{3}$ smaller than the common edible garden pea. This plant occupies a wide range of climactic conditions thriving in the warm wet environment of the Pacific Northwest to the cold dry conditions of the Rocky Mountain States. Little information has been published on this species and it is often overlooked as an invader. Though not listed in many western states as noxious, Idaho and Wyoming are now including it into their control plans as additional infestations appear.

Impacts: Perennial peavine is increasingly a problem in Western Oregon on rights-of-way, forested regions and natural areas. In small patches, it does provide a good food source for upland game birds and other wildlife but as infestations increase in size, large areas are smothered and native plant cover are reduced. Increased awareness and treatment are critical at this time to prevent further encroachment into forested areas.

Biological controls: No approved biological control agents are available.

