



Goatsrue

Galega officinalis



- ✦ Other names: Professor weed
- ✦ *Galega officinalis* is a Class A Noxious Weed.
- ✦ Goatsrue is an herbaceous perennial in the Fabaceae family, that reproduces by seed.
- ✦ Plants grow up to 6 feet tall. Plants can produce up to 20 upright, hollow stems from a vigorous crown and a deep tap root. Leaves are compound with 6 to 10 leaflets and a terminal leaflet, each one tipped with a hair-like appendage and are arranged alternately. It blooms from June to fall frost. The small pea-like flowers are white to light purple and grow in clusters at the stems end, or in the leaf axils. Seed pods are narrow, round and about 1" long. Goatsrue produces 1-9 bean shaped, mustard yellow seeds per pod, that can remain viable in the soil from 5 to 10 years. Each plant can produce up to 15,000 pods per plant, or more.

- ✦ It is found in cropland, ditch banks, irrigation waterways, uncut pastures, fence lines, roadsides and wet marshy areas. It forms monocultures in wetlands, displaces native and beneficial plants, and destroys wildlife habitat.
- ✦ Goatsrue is fatal if ingested in sufficient quantities. Smaller amounts also produce negative health consequences. These are more common in sheep than other animals, although cattle, horses, and goats can all have reactions as well.

✦ CONTROL OPTIONS

- ✦ Goatsrue is very difficult to eradicate once established, so it is important to quickly control any new infestations.
- ✦ As usual with invasive species, the best control measure is prevention. Early detection and eradication are vital to prevent the spread of goatsrue. Above all else, prevent flowers from setting seed.



- ✦ A combination of control methods including tilling, mowing, digging, herbicide treatment, and hand clipping for flower or seed pod removal are useful to eradicate goatsrue.
- ✦ Mowing, clipping or cutting are not effective when used alone. Goatsrue will flower and produce seeds on plants after multiple cuttings, even while cut short.
- ✦ Selective herbicides are considered the most effective for large sites. Dicamba, or 2,4-D and their combinations are very effective. Apply twice during the growing season to post emergent plants from bud stage to full flower, in early to mid-summer. Control is most effective when herbicide treatment is combined with mechanical methods, by clipping initial growth to 24" and then spraying plant regrowth at 24". This process should be repeated over 2 consecutive seasons.
- ✦ When using herbicides, always read and follow all label instructions and obey all label precautions. (Note: pesticide product registration is renewed annually and product names and formulations may vary from year to year.)

